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Hafa Adai!
# Saipan Tribune
$1

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 205
**FRIDAY** OCTOBER 14, 2022
**www.saipantribune.com**
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, right, wrote, directed, and starred in *Steps on the Shore*, playing the lead role of Neil. The film won the Best Made in the Marianas Award at the 2022 Guam International Film Festival. Inset shows the Best Made in the Marianas Award.

# Saipan-made film wins nod at GIFF

Saipan filmmaker Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga's short film, *Steps on the Shore*, won the Best Made in the Marianas award at the 2022 Guam International Film Festival, also known as the GIFF. The film, which he wrote, directed, and starred in, bested three other films to win the coveted award.

Pajarillaga was ecstatic when he heard the news and immediately expressed his appreciation to those that helped bring the film to life. "I'd like to share this award with my family, my friends and crew, and, of course, with Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero and Mrs. Beth Nunez who advised and supported me with this film," he said. "This film is theirs as much as it is mine."

Nunez is the principal of Pajarillaga's alma mater, Grace Christian Academy

See FILM on Page 4

# Early voting for Saipan, Tinian, Rota will start Nov. 1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Early voting on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will commence on Nov. 1 and end on Nov. 7, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla S. Igitol yesterday.

Igitol said the designated early voting place for the Northern Islands will be relocated on Oct. 23 through Nov. 7 to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

See VOTING on Page 4

# CNMI SBDC Network provides all entrepreneurs an opportunity to further their career through SEED to Sail

## TOGETHER, WE CAN

By NADINE DELEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero is the CNMI SBDC Network network director. Prior to assuming her current role, Nadine served on the CNMI Cannabis Commission board as its chairwoman where she had direct oversight on establishing the CNMI's cannabis industry. Nadine has over 22 years of professional experience and is currently pursuing her Master's in Public Administration with the University of Guam.*

When you have faith as wide as the ocean, the possibilities are limitless. The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is hosting the first ever Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) to Sail—a rendition of ABC's Shark Tank.

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

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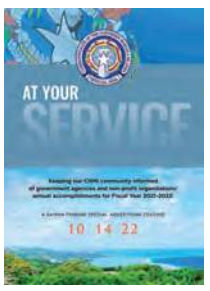


**SUPPLEMENT**
Today's issue comes with a supplement, "At Your Service," starting on Page 11 of the newspaper.
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**OFF THE WALL**
A horticulture teacher set a new U.S. record Monday for the heaviest pumpkin.
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**LIFE & STYLE**
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's has named this year's 25 winners.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

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# Local

## A week in prison for license fraud

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has sentenced a man to a week in prison for his involvement in the unlawful production of a CNMI driver's license in 2019.

Chief Judge Ramona Manglona imposed a one-week sentence on Xiaoqin Wu last Wednesday after he pleaded guilty to his involvement in making illegal CNMI driver's licenses. Following his seven-day imprisonment, Wu will be placed on two-years' supervised release.

Wu was also ordered to pay a special assessment fee of $100 to be paid immediately after sentencing. In lieu of a fine, the defendant must perform 80 hours of community service at the direction of the U.S. Probation Office.

Manglona

Manglona ordered Wu to self-surrender to the U.S. Marshal at the Department of Corrections yesterday, Oct. 13, 2022.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Wu pleaded guilty back in December 2021 to one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

The plea agreement states that on or about Feb. 15, 2019, Wu conspired with an individual known as "Zhang" to "knowingly and without lawful authority produce…a fraudulent CNMI driver's license, and the prohibited production, transfer, possession, or use was in or affected interstate or foreign commerce."

The plea agreement states that Wu did not have lawful U.S. immigration status so he paid Zhang $300 to help him obtain a fraudulent CNMI driver's license.

"The defendant knew that it was illegal to obtain a driver's license without legal immigration status. In furtherance of their plan, defendant gave Zhang $300 and sent Zhang a photo image of his 2017 CNMI driver's license via WeChat. Sometime later, Zhang gave defendant the fraudulent CNMI driver's license that [Zhang] had unlawfully produced," the document said.

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# Man gets two-month prison sentence for multiple thefts

A man who is facing multiple criminal cases and was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol pleaded guilty to all the charges filed against him and has since been sentenced to two months in prison.

Johnny John Basiente, 35, was sentenced to a 60-day imprisonment, or two months, by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in three separate cases.

The sentence was imposed after Basiente, through assistant public defender Tyler Scott, pleaded guilty to theft in criminal case 21-0098D; theft in criminal case 21-0157C; and driving while under the Influence of alcohol, in traffic case 21-02222.

In the first theft case, criminal case 21-0098D, Camacho sentenced Basiente to one year in prison, with the first 60 days to be served day by day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program.

The remaining sentence is suspended but may be imposed in whole or in part if he violates any law or Office of Adult Probation rules.

For the second theft case, criminal case 21-0157C, Basiente was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, the first 60 days to be served day by day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release, or other similar program.

In this case, Basiente was given credit for time served of one day. His remaining sentence is suspended.

Finally, in traffic case 21-02222, Basiente was sentenced to one-year imprisonment, with the first three days to be served day by day without the possibility of parole, probation, early release, work release, weekend release or other similar program.

The sentences for all three cases Basiente pleaded guilty to will run concurrently with one another.

Following his release from prison, Basiente will be placed under supervised probation for a period of three years. He was ordered to report to the Office of Adult Probation on the next business day after he is released from the Department of Corrections.

In addition, Basiente must pay a fine of $500, court cost of $25 and probation fee in the amount to be assessed by the Office of Adult Probation before the expiration of his probationary period.

According to court documents, back in 2021, Basiente stole a tip jar from Guang Zhao restaurant in Garapan, and cash from Fu Bang restaurant in Chalan Kanoa.

The defendant was also ordered to pay restitution to both restaurants in the amount of $660 before the end of his probationary period.

*(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

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# HANMI occupancy at 21% in Sept.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 21% average occupancy rate among its 12 member-hotels for September 2022.

Although the average percentage rate is slightly higher than a year ago, the actual number of rooms sold is 20 percentage points higher than last year, as more hotels and more rooms have reopened.

A total of 11,891 of 56,729 available room nights sold during September 2022, compared to 9,915 of 37,617 available rooms sold in September 2021. Average room rates have also increased in the last year to $154.61 in September 2022, compared to $144.98 last September.

"The hotel industry continues to have small successes toward recovery, including the reopening of GrandVrio Resort Saipan last month," said HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho. "However, there is still a long ways to go. Most challenging right now is a very strong U.S. dollar, which is making less pricey beach destinations much more attractive for travelers from Korea and Japan. While we know travel demand is increasing, COVID concerns remain and destinations are competing fiercely to attract visitors. We will need to fight for every visitor we can attract during this time."

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

# ESGR recognizes as Spaeth as a 'Patriotic Employer'

**By LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee for Guam and the CNMI recognized Cdr. Travis Spaeth of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality yesterday as a Patriotic Employer.

Spaeth, a U.S. Public Health Officer and Safe Drinking Water manager at BECQ, was presented with the award in a ceremony at the BECQ conference room, after being nominated by BECQ environmental specialist and Army Reservist Sgt. Aloysius Atalig.

The award is presented to employers for contributing to national security and supporting employee participation in America's National Guard and Reserves Force.

Present at yesterday's event were Joann Aquino, ombudsman representative for the CNMI; Dr. Rita A. Sablan, CNMI Committee area chair; Rose Igitol, employer outreach representative for the CNMI; ESGR member Joshlyn Blas; Eli Cabrera, administrator of BECQ; Glenn Arriola, environmental specialist for BECQ; and Zabrina Cruz, Division of Environmental Quality director.

Prior to the awarding, Sablan thanked everyone for "taking time to give us the opportunity to present a very special recognition to one of your supervisors. The ESGR are a Department of Defense volunteer organization and so we advocate for everybody, not just the service member, but the employer as well. So, there are recognition awards that are given out to supervisors, whenever their service members submit a nomination, and we were able to receive a nomination from Loy. We wanted to do a presentation on behalf of the Guam-CNMI state ESGR Committee."

Loy, a 20-year reservist, said that he nominated his supervisor because "Cdr. Spaeth has been patriotic for our country. Not only does he work in the local government, he is also an officer in the U.S. Public Health as an outstanding engineer."

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## TOGETHER

*From Page 1*

SEED to Sail was designed to help the culinary graduate start a food truck business, the tech-savvy professional meet digital needs, the food connoisseur pursue their dream of opening their one-of-a-kind restaurant idea to complement the CNMI's tourism industry, or the classically trained dancer to open their own studio to help cater to our youth.

Although our work at SEED to Sail is on a small scale, we believe that starting small is preferable to not starting at all. As an SBDC, we recognize that the most difficult challenge for most small businesses is accessing capital. SEED to Sail addresses this issue by giving our aspiring entrepreneurs and existing business community an opportunity to harness ideas and equip them with the necessary capital to jumpstart their business. In addition, we provide guidance whether through counseling, training, or connecting them with the right professional business adviser who can take their prototype idea to a full-blown success of an operation.

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, many new businesses sprouted—restaurants, beauty stores, cafes, and others. As the majority were being run by first-time entrepreneurs, we saw a clear need for guidance when providing technical assistance to our business community through the Office of the Governor's Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Together (BOOST) program. Whether it's assisting clients with their business plans or realizing their target market, our goal was to help guide our entrepreneurs.

If it were up to the SBDC, we'd have a SEED to Sail project every quarter. The reality is that the funds provided by the BOOST program is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and as such, we wanted to maximize our chances of assisting our business community by organizing SEED to Sail.

A selection panel dealt with the challenging task to narrow down the 55 applicants to five finalists for the first category and three finalists for the second category. In preparation for the event, the SBDC hosted several rehearsals leading up to tonight. Part of the selection process was reviewing applicants' business plans and conducting consultation sessions. The turnout allowed the SBDC to realize the potential in admitting some of tonight's finalists into the SBDC Incubator program. The winner of the first category, which includes finalists who have been in business for less than a year, will receive $20,000 in seed money as well as an automatic admission into the SBDC Incubator program where their first year of commercial rental space will be paid for among other things.

Ultimately, what we're hoping will come out of tonight's event is that eight new businesses will be started, and realized. This means more jobs for our people, more product and service options for our community, and more revenue to assist in improved public services and infrastructure for our Commonwealth. Though SEED to Sail won't drastically change our economic health overnight, it most certainly will be a step in the right direction.

On behalf of the CNMI SBDC Network, we are extremely appreciative of everyone involved in our inaugural event. Our panel of judges consists of a diverse group of people who were carefully chosen to represent a specific aspect of the industry and way of thinking. This includes representation of women in business, professors from institutions of higher learning, media, and individuals from banking and financial institutions. We're excited to have them on board, and most certainly do not envy them as we know how hard their jobs will be this evening.

Although the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is sponsoring tonight's event, we could not have done this alone. It takes partnerships and stakeholders who believe in our mission and support our vision, and it starts with our host institution, the Northern Marianas College.

NMC saw the potential in the CNMI having its own Lead Center and Network. Without their guidance and leadership, the SBDC would not be what it is today. For this, we pledge our dedication to work hard and service our community as best we can by providing the best no-cost training and consultation opportunities for our aspiring business owners to avail of.

The SBDC would also like to thank our sponsors for whom without their support, tonight's event would not have been made possible: the CNMI Office of the Governor, Priority Care and Saipan Renal Care, Bank of Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, IT&E, KKMP, Turnkey Solutions, Docomo Pacific, Power 99, Bank of Hawaii, WESTCO, D&Q and the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors.

SEED to Sail is being hosted by the CNMI SBDC Network in partnership with the University of Guam Masters in Public Administration CNMI Graduating Class of 2023 cohort.

I would like to humbly invite the community to tune into the SEED to Sail livestream from 4pm to 10pm on NMC's Facebook page. Let us all support our aspiring entrepreneurs as they take part in what could potentially change their lives, and their businesses.

On behalf of the CNMI SBDC Network, good luck to all our contestants! I have seen the hard work that you all have put in to take your businesses to the next level. Together, We Can!

Disclaimer: The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network (CNMI SBDCN) comprises the CNMI SBDC Lead Center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and the Tinian SBDC. CNMI SBDCN is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration "SBA" and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.

For more information visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com. Engage with the Council on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

## FILM

*From Page 1*

Saipan, and Deleon Guerrero is president of Northern Marianas College and a local filmmaker who produced the film. In 2019, Deleon Guerrero's film, *We Drank Our Tears: The Story of Rafael Mafnas*, which was directed by Justin Ocampo and Angelo Manese, also won big at the GIFF, taking home the Best in Festival award.

Deleon Guerrero, who attended the GIFF as a festival panelist and as a representative for the film, was proud of Pajarillaga's accomplishment. "His film moved many members of the GIFF audience, who connected with the film's authenticity and warmth, and praised its intentional cinematography."

For his part, Pajarillaga was worried that the film would not resonate with audiences. "It was deeply personal to me, so I needed to tread a fine line when it came to how intense the film should be emotionally," he said. However, winning the GIFF award validates his experience, providing him with what he called "much, much needed proof that I can confidently continue to stay true to the emotions and themes that I've set out to explore. …It is also an encouragement to continue in my filmmaking and storytelling goals, and I'm truly excited to continue forward."

That encouragement is something Pajarillaga wants to extend to others, especially young filmmakers. As he put it, "With perseverance and an open mind, you can chase and realize your creative dreams."

*Steps on the Shore* follows a high school graduate during his last days on island before heading off to college as he grapples with lingering conflicts involving family and his sense of belonging to the island.

Pajarillaga is a son of the Marianas who graduated in 2021 from Grace Christian Academy Saipan and is currently pursuing a film degree from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. At Wesleyan, he has also been a videographer for the university's Communications Department and the Women's Volleyball Team. While home from college this past summer, he served as a volunteer on the broadcasting and media team for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games that were held in the Northern Mariana Islands.

As the only film festival in the Western Pacific, the GIFF was founded 12 years ago by brothers Don and Kel Muña, whose film, *Shiro's Head*, earned international acclaim and established them as the region's preeminent filmmakers. They started the festival as a way to bring international films and filmmakers to the Marianas while also promoting filmmakers from the Marianas. Past festival winners include Academy Award, Emmy, Sundance and Cannes Palme d'Or winners. ***(PR)***

## VOTING

*From Page 1*

The early voting for the Northern Islands started on Sept. 23 and will continue until Oct. 22 at the CEC conference room in Susupe.

Igitol made the clarification after they mistakenly put Oct. 23 as the start of early voting on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in their proposed early voting and polling place designation announcement.

The CEC board approved the designated polling sites for the Nov. 8 general elections during a meeting Tuesday.

Igitol said the polling places for all three senatorial districts during the early voting will open at 8:30am and close at 4pm each day, inclusive of weekends and holidays.

She said the polling places for the general election on Nov. 8 will open at 7am and close at 7pm.

CEC reminds voters to bring with them an identification card with picture as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polling sites.

As of Sept. 14, there were 19,275 registered voters in the CNMI, assuring this Nov. 8 elections will have the highest number of registered voters in the Commonwealth history.

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# More candidates sought for Gandang Pinay pageant

The Gandang Pinay 2023 beauty pageant has already attracted the participation of nine candidates so far.

The young Filipino women, ranging in ages from 16 to 19 years old, have already signed up for the competition that's slated early next year on Feb. 11, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort for a valentine's show being organized by the Bayani Association, a non-profit organization.

Association president Annamae Adaza said, "This is the first time that we will be holding a Valentine's Day beauty pageant and the young ladies are excited about the event. We are still looking for three or more candidates to complete the line-up of candidates."

Pageant contenders will be competing in four categories: Filipiana costume, Talent, Evening Gown, and Question & Answer portion. The community can look forward to exciting production numbers from the candidates, who will be handled by the pageant director Ernie Molina, who also directed the phenomenal Drag Queen pageant last February 2022. Molina said this is also a training ground for the candidates, as it will improve their personality and develop their self-confidence.

Winners will be receiving cash prizes, crowns, sash, bouquets, gift certificates, and certificates of participation from the organization. This is a fundraising event and the proceeds will be used for the future community projects of the association.

The deadline for the application is on or before Oct. 23, 2022. For additional details and inquiries, call the Adaza at (670) 285-4388, Leony Mendoza at (670) 287-7563/ Marie Meister at (670) 785-0349, Ladyvir Canape at (670) 989-2545/ Yolly De Ramos at (670) 989-7836, or Molina at (670) 789-8212. ***(PR)***

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Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOAQUIN JOSE FITIAL VILLAGOMEZ, Deceased. : Civil Action No. 22-0229 : NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO CREDITORS : Date: November 10, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m. Judge: Honorable Joseph N. Camacho

**TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OOF HIS ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Paul R. Kaipat, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, NMI R. Prob. P.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **November 10, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** in Courtroom 220A, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 7th day of October 2022.

_____/S/_____
HON. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge, CNMI Superior Court

# TSL Foundation supports SEED to Sail

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino, center, presents the ceremonial check to CNMI Small Business Development Center Network representatives, led by network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, fifth left, during the turnover ceremony at the JP Center conference room early this month in support of the SEED to Sail Program.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated $2,500 to the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network to support the launching of the SEED (Supporting Entrepreneurship & Economic Development) to Sail program.

SEED to Sail, according to CNMI SBDC network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, is a guided experience for start-up and early-stage businesses to create and present a pitch to support their application to receive "seed money" to fund their small business venture. For the inaugural program, the CNMI SBDC Network has created two categories, with the first one for new and existing business that has been operating for at least one year and the second one is for those who have been conducting business in the CNMI for over a year.

Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino turned over the donation to Deleon Guerrero and other representatives of the group early this month. The donation is going to the cash prize pot that will be distributed to the winning businesses, which will have their presentation this Friday at Grand-Vrio Hotel.

In this Friday's event, CNMI SBDC Network will have five finalists presenting under the businesses operating for at least a year category, while eight entries made the grade for the other category. CNMI SBDC Network, in partnership with the University of Guam Masters in Public Administration Program-CNMI graduating Class of 2023, will award prizes for the Top 3 in the first category and then will select only one winner in the second category. Applicants can win cash prizes as high as $20,000 and they will also get one-on-one counseling through the CNMI SBDC Network, assistance in building a viable business plan, and network with other small business own-

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

How's Your Hearing?
Specializing in:
- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
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- Custom Communication Devices
Thursday, Oct 20th 9:00am - 4:00pm
Friday, Oct 21st 9:00am - 4:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com
Ross Hearing Aids
All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Covid-19 crippled a lot of dreams and businesses.

# BOOST PROGRAM stimulus package revitalizes commerce and industry across CNMI

500 Sails Canoe "Animuyi" as a reminder of CNMI's strength and resilience.

**BOOST Program** is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants – initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance – provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

Representatives from SBDC and MANGO assisting small business owners create business profiles during the Rota community outreach to apply for the BOOST Program.

**Existing CNMI Businesses, Start-up Businesses, Industrial Pioneers, and Non-Profit Organizations, apply now for the BOOST Grant Program!**

For inquiries simply logon to www.boostcnmi.com

# Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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## EDITORIAL

# It's obviously fake news, but a real news outlet takes money to publish it

It's bad enough that the GOP propaganda machine has so successfully implanted in the minds of millions of Americans that traditional news outlets are somehow disseminating fake news. The label of "fake" usually accompanies real news that tends to put certain Republicans in an unfavorable light when they do things like subvert democracy or claim an election was stolen when it wasn't.

The last thing the news industry needs is to have its biggest print publisher, Gannett, participate in the actual production of fake news. In Illinois, Gannett is accepting money to publish fake newspapers that manufacture coverage helping GOP candidates. The fake newspapers carry names like the "West Cook News" and "Chicago City Wire." They appear to be the handiwork of a Florida-based right-wing activist, Dan Proft, who has taken particular aim at incumbent Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot. Proft was an Illinois Republican gubernatorial candidate in 2010 and has a current talk show on a conservative radio network.

The fake newspapers previously were printed by a Chicago suburban newspaper, the Daily Herald, but the owner canceled the contract on Sept. 22 after Pritzker publicly chastised the company and refused to participate in a candidates' debate sponsored by the Daily Herald. Proft's company, Local Government Information Services, then took its business to cash-strapped Gannett, lamenting that it had paid "millions of dollars" to the Daily Herald's publishing company, Paddock Publications, over a period of several years.

A Daily Herald editorial defended its relationship with Local Government Information Services as strictly commercial and insisted that "the Daily Herald's editorial mission to be unbiased and fair." Gannett isn't commenting.

The fake newspapers and their corresponding websites have the look of legitimate publications, with captioned photos and bylined stories. But a closer look at the articles suggests something is way off. There are lots of crime mug shots featuring Black men and articles focused on LGBTQ mockery. Among other oddities is someone's fixation with youth tennis and the profiling of Chicago-area youths who achieve absurdly low (non-newsworthy) rankings—as if designed to embarrass someone.

The publications have been repeatedly cited by fact-checking outlets for distributing misinformation. The Chicago City Wire's coverage of Darren Bailey, Pritzker's Republican challenger in the Nov. 8 gubernatorial race, reads like it's been copied directly from campaign promotional material.

"It has all the appearance and trappings of an official news organization, and it's trying to hitch a ride off the credibility of newspapers built over time," Peter Adams, senior

*See FAKE NEWS on Next Page*

# How do we stop sexual misconduct in health care? Chaperones are one solution

**By EMMET HIRSCH**
Chicago Tribune

*Dr. Emmet Hirsch, an OB-GYN, is a clinical professor at the University of Chicago and director of the OB Hospitalist program at NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston.*

Last week, Columbia University and its affiliated hospitals announced a $165 million settlement to 147 patients who accused a male gynecologist of sexual abuse. The recent settlement follows an agreement last year awarding $71.5 million to 79 other patients for misconduct by the same doctor. The physician, Robert Hadden, pleaded guilty in 2016 to abusing 19 women but shockingly served no prison time.

This development is the latest in a string of similar reprehensible cases. The scope of the problem is difficult to ascertain, but it is clear that, though uncommon, such instances are underreported. There is no doubt that the problem of sexual abuse by physicians has always existed, resulting in incalculable harm to victims.

In 2020, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' ethics committee published a revised committee opinion on sexual misconduct in health care. The opinion defines what constitutes sexual misconduct: inappropriate communication; performing breast, genital or rectal examinations either unnecessarily or without consent; intimate relations between a treating physician and a patient; and other violations. The ACOG committee correctly states that even a single episode of sexual misconduct is unacceptable.

The most significant and eye-catching change in the new guidelines is the strongly worded recommendation that a chaperone be present for all breast, genital and rectal exams, whether conducted by male or female providers. In the prior version of the opinion, this was an opt-in recommendation, with vaguely defined parameters for implementation. The latest opinion advocates for a chaperone in all cases, with an opt-out available but strongly discouraged. This approach is thought to benefit both patients and caregivers—by providing reassurance of the propriety of the encounter, deterring inappropriate behaviors, preventing misunderstandings and providing a witness to actual events.

The recommendation is based in part on a review of 101 cases of sexual misconduct, in which, among other findings, it was shown that most offending physicians, at 85%, do not routinely employ chaperones.

I have been an OB-GYN for 30 years. I recognize the importance of the problem and the fact that I can think of no better way than chaperoning to protect patients undergoing sensitive exams. The fact that injury can be perpetrated by physicians during these encounters, in violation of the most fundamental tenet of our profession, is abhorrent to me. And yet, the thought that a third party needs to be interposed in the sacred dyad of physician and patient provokes sadness, an emotion I did not experience with any of the other changes that have profoundly altered the way I practice medicine.

If my female primary care doctor were to inform me that a chaperone is now required for my appointment, I would decline. A third person in the room, even while professionally trained and standing quietly in the corner, would alter the personal interaction between my doctor and me. But that's easy for me to say. The notion that my physician might cause me physical or psychological harm is nearly inconceivable to me.

But this thinking doesn't apply to female patients undergoing sensitive exams. And what is it that I find objectionable about a third person? It is common for people other than my patient and me to be present in my examination rooms. Sometimes, I require medical staff to assist me with parts of the patient visit. At other times, with the patient's permission and under my supervision, a student may observe or even conduct the sensitive parts of the exam. Most of my patients generously permit this teaching to take place without it seeming to adversely affect our interaction.

Perhaps what makes me most uncomfortable is the fear that a chaperone will suggest to my patients that they are endangered by being alone in a room with their doctor, that their physician is a person from whom they require protection. In this sense, the new guidelines may erode trust, which is the foundation of the physician-patient relationship.

And yet, the fact is that our patients need a level of protection we have not previously provided. I accept the necessity of having chaperones in my exam room—but I do so with sadness. Sadness that my practice has changed and sadness that my colleagues and I can no longer be relied upon to do no harm to the people who have entrusted themselves to our care.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Anthony Bourdain's death has us asking the wrong questions about suicide

**By CLANCY MARTIN**
Los Angeles Times

*Clancy Martin is a writer and professor of philosophy at the University of Missouri in Kansas City and Ashoka University in New Delhi. His forthcoming book is* How Not to Kill Yourself: A Portrait of the Suicidal Mind.

A new unauthorized biography has many people talking again about the suicide of Anthony Bourdain in June 2018. As is often the case with people who die by suicide, much of the chatter includes questions such as: How did they do it? Who was the last person they talked to? What was different about that day? What was the precipitating event? We want to understand, and sometimes, we look for someone to blame.

Even Albert Camus, in his essay "The Myth of Sisyphus," falls prey to this way of thinking, writing: "What sets off the crisis is almost always unverifiable. Newspapers often speak of 'personal sorrows' or of 'incurable illness.' These explanations are plausible. But one would have to know whether a friend of the desperate man had not that very day addressed him indifferently. He is the guilty one."

But this way of thinking cheapens the death and struggles of anyone who has died by suicide or attempted it. Suicide, for most people, is a process. Sometimes that process starts at a very young age. The writer David M. Perry talks about his own suicidal ideation beginning at age 9. I have a former student who first attempted suicide by riding his tricycle through a window as a toddler. My own desire to kill myself is among my first memories.

Suicidal ideation can also be a regular part of a person's life. The Australian podcaster Honor Eastly describes herself as thinking about suicide every day, sometimes dozens of times a day. Writers Margo Jefferson and Donald Antrim talk about what Jefferson refers to as suicide exercises. For Jefferson this meant putting her head in an oven for increasingly longer periods; for Antrim it meant laying out tarps on the floor of his apartment and lying there with a knife to slash his wrists or his throat. These experiences are not extreme for many suicidal people; they are typical. Anna Borges recently wrote about what we call "passive suicidal ideation": not actively planning to kill herself, but fantasizing about it constantly, sometimes all day long.

Some of these people, like Jefferson, never make an attempt; some, like Antrim, make one attempt, survive and hopefully never try again. Others, like me, make multiple attempts, perhaps knowing that with every attempt one's likelihood of dying by suicide significantly increases. There are those like David Foster Wallace, who make multiple attempts while also writing about and fighting the desire for death, who eventually do perish at their own hand. And there are the people like Bourdain who make only one attempt—so far as we know—and succeed. Yet no matter where one falls in terms of how they attempt, or contemplate, suicide, there are almost always warning signs—freakouts, crises and big and small cries for help. Suicide is usually not an impulsive act that is one day or a few days in the making.

Nor is suicide inevitable, no matter how frequently a person thinks about it. Most deaths by suicide are avoidable and preventable with proper care, which need not necessarily come from a trained professional. One of the country's leading experts on suicide, Dr. John Draper, project director of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network, told me that perhaps the most important thing to know about helping suicidal people is that "everybody can do it."

"Explain that you are concerned, you care, you want to talk about it. Then whatever they tell you, just listen, reflect, be curious. Make no judgments. You might let them know that they can get through this."

How do we get through this? The ancient Stoics, who thought that suicide was morally justifiable in some circumstances, used to make an argument called "the door is always open." The idea is, if things get that bad, you know you have a way out. But given that knowledge, suddenly even very painful situations are less claustrophobic. There's no need to panic. You don't have to go into fight or flight. You can breathe through this. Wait just one day.

We know that after famous people kill themselves, suicide rates increase. But talking about suicide is the best medicine we know of for helping suicidal people. For every one person who dies by suicide, about 280 people are presently considering it.

Humans are complicated, contradictory creatures, full of irrationality and cognitive and emotional dissonance. We are allowed to be both enormously grateful for life and desperate to escape it. The last unknown part that Bourdain showed us was just this: It's OK to feel suicidal. It's nothing to be ashamed of. Talk to someone about it. Talk to a few friends. They'll remind you of what we wish we could have said to Anthony Bourdain that night. "Stick around, just for a day. We love you. Things may look much better in the morning."

### Suicide prevention and crisis counseling resources

If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, seek help from a professional and call 9-8-8. The United States' first nationwide three-digit mental health crisis hotline 988 will connect callers with trained mental health counselors. Text "HOME" to 741741 in the U.S. and Canada to reach the Crisis Text Line.

# LA City Council members' recording isn't just offensive. It's also illuminating

**By LZ GRANDERSON**
Los Angeles Times

*LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the* Los Angeles Times.

So…this is the room where it happens. Not nearly as attractive as Aaron Burr described it in "Hamilton." In fact—judging from the leaked audio from a 2021 meeting among Los Angeles City Council members Gil Cedillo, Kevin de León and Nury Martinez—the room where it happens is probably the ugliest place in politics.

But it can also be quite revealing. Here's where things get really uncomfortable. The meeting was about power. The offensive language displays these politicians' thoughts about who they wanted to take power from.

It was Martinez who called Oaxacans "ugly," referred to her out gay colleague Mike Bonin as a "bitch" and described Bonin's Black son as a "monkey"—and yet the fact that those comments went unchallenged says a lot about everyone else in the room. It's hard to imagine her saying these things unless Cedillo and de León provided the environment in which such sentiments seemed OK.

Martinez resigned as president of the council on Monday and took a leave of absence on Tuesday. All three council members are under pressure to resign from office.

While the offensiveness of the conversation commands the headlines, the reason the group met in the first place warrants more attention. They had gathered at the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor with Ron Herrera, who was president of the federation until he resigned this week. Most of the conversation was about the maps proposed by the city's redistricting commission and the need to protect heavily Latino districts from losing economic assets in the once-a-decade process.

"What kind of districts are you trying to create?" Martinez said in frustration. "Because you're taking away our assets. You're just going to create poor Latino districts with nothing."

This meeting was about politicians and communities fighting for political power. Democratic leaders, both locally and nationally, know this is not a new topic.

Martinez, Cedillo and de León are a lot of things, including Democrats. Anger over the inequitable power structure within the party is not unique to them. Feels like a much larger conversation needs to happen, beyond calls for the councilmembers' resignations and beyond Gov. Gavin Newsom's remarks that "words matter, and racist language can do real harm."

This week The Washington Post reminded national Democrats of the erosion of Latino support in Florida, warning it could happen in other states, like Texas. Sure, Democrats can still win the White House in 2024 without those two states, but NBC reported last week that Democrats in Nevada are concerned that Latinos may stay home on Nov. 8, unmotivated to show up despite the importance of the election. Last month the Arizona Republic reported a survey in which 42% of Latinos in Arizona said neither party has contacted them about the midterm election. It makes no sense. Nearly a third of the state's population is Latino.

Maybe by itself the leaked audio in Los Angeles would be a one-off scandal. But in this national context, the conversation in the largest city in the biggest blue state signifies something more. We saw that in 2020, when President Donald Trump won greater support from Latino voters than he had in 2016. Regardless of his remarks, his policies or Democrats' characterizations of him, 1 in 3 Latino voters supported Trump nationwide. That's not even a take. That's just what happened.

Something else tangible connected with people in a way the culture war and liberal immigration policies didn't. I would dare say those other things were the economy, COVID-19 and public safety. A growing number of Latino Americans believed Trump was better suited to address those things. I wonder if Democrats understand all of the reasons why.

Even if all three councilmembers resigned—as they should—the issue that inspired their meeting won't go away. They were pushing for more political power for Latinos—and that's understandable.

As reported by The Times, "Latino residents make up roughly half of L.A.'s population but represent less than a third of the council's 15 districts." The disparity in representation is even wider in Washington. The nation is about 19% Latino, but only about 7% of representatives are members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Only six senators are Latino.

What are some Latino leaders willing to do about it? In the case of Martinez and company, whatever they feel is necessary, including gerrymander. Just like every voting bloc and all other politicians.

In 2020, Latino voters were willing to back the candidate who vilified them. In 2021, feeling like their districts were threatened, Latino politicians threw around slurs and schemed to gerrymander. Just like every voting bloc and all other politicians, Latino leaders will reach for power and influence.

That's what that leaked audio represents. In the room where it happens, motives are discussed, alliances are formed, deals made. Backroom dealings are not always as vulgar and offensive as the meeting Martinez led, but they are always about getting needs met.

That's the most important takeaway for the city, and for the Democratic Party.

Not just the words but the issues behind them.

## FAKE NEWS

*From Page 8*

vice president of education at the News Literacy Project, told the Columbia Journalism Review. "This crosses the boundary into propaganda."

Gannett, which also publishes the non-trustworthy Epoch Times, remains silent about such printing contracts. Profiting off operations that help undermine real journalism is abhorrent, no matter how much Gannett needs the money.

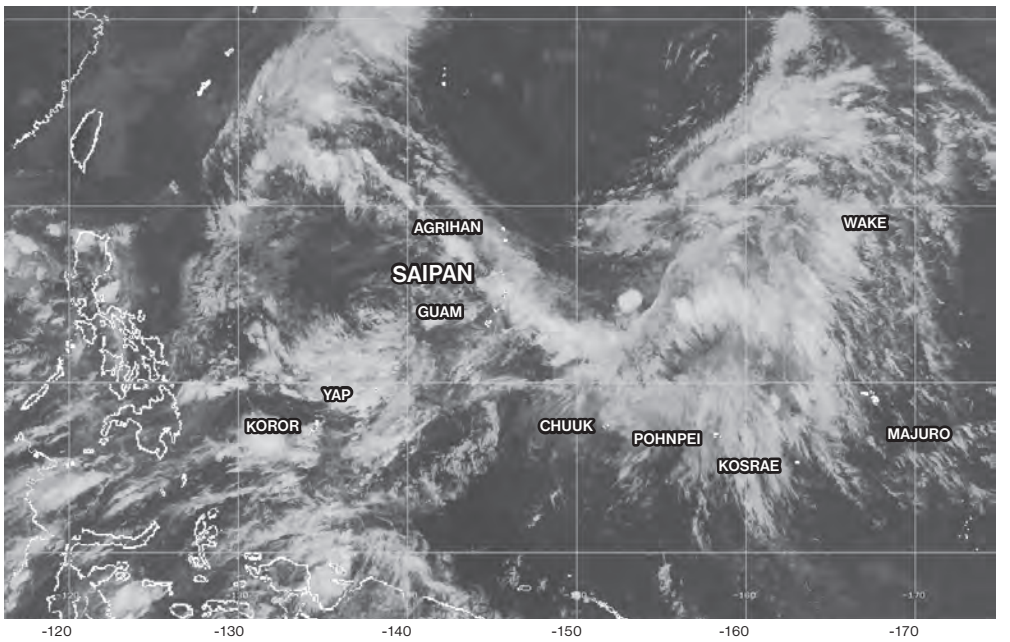
**© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch***

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy | Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny | A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny | A chance of showers. Partly sunny | A chance of showers. Partly sunny |
| 84° 79° | 84° 76° | 86° 77° | 86° 77° | 86° 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh southwest winds prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and doppler radar indicate rounds of showers bubbling up across the coastal waters. Ritidian buoy indicates seas are about 5 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 81° / 76° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 85° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Chuuk | Mostly Cloudy | 87° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 89° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 79° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 86° / 80° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 59° / 50° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 74° / 47° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 86° / 75° |
| Honolulu | Scattered Thunderstorms | 82° / 72° |
| London | Light Rain | 61° / 50° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 76° / 63° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 90° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Light Rain | 63° / 47° |
| Miami | Scattered Thunderstorms | 83° / 74° |
| New York | Rain | 68° / 54° |
| Osaka | Sunny | 80° / 61° |
| Paris | Rain | 62° / 59° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 74° / 61° |
| Rome | Sunny | 77° / 54° |
| Salem | Cloudy | 78° / 47° |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | 61° / 53° |
| Seoul | Mostly Cloudy | 72° / 52° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 71° / 62° |
| Washington, DC | Thunderstorms | 69° / 46° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:08 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Saturday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Sunday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Monday | 6:08 AM | 5:55 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:09 AM | 5:55 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 9:44 AM | 9:11 PM |
| Saturday | - | 10:38 AM | 10:00 PM |
| Sunday | - | 11:31 AM | 10:51 PM |
| Monday | - | 12:22 PM | 11:43 PM |
| Tuesday | - | 1:09 PM | - |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:16 AM | Low Tide | -0.08 |
| 11:19 AM | High Tide | 1.69 |
| 4:49 PM | Low Tide | 1.15 |
| 9:23 PM | High Tide | 1.61 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 6, 2022

## DEPARTURES

### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 6:30PM | 7:15PM | 6 |

### GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 6:00AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:05PM | 10:55PM | 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:20PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 5 via Guam, Palau |
| OZ624/701 | 4:00PM | 11:05AM+1 | 3,6 via Incheon |

### SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW308 | 3:30PM | 7:20PM | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 3:30PM | 7:25PM | 6 |
| 7C3405 | 3:50PM | 7:45PM | 3, 4, 7 |
| OZ624 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 |

### SAIPAN-NARITA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:00AM | 9:30AM | 1, 3, 5 |

### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:00PM | 6:35PM | 3, 7 |

## ARRIVALS

### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| UA112 | 4:40PM | 5:30PM | 6 |

### MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR110 | 10:00PM | 4:00AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 5 via Palau |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:40AM+1 | 5 |

### MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA192/112 | 10:25PM | 5:30pm+1 | 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Guam |
| UA184/112 | 11:50PM | 5:30pm+1 | 5 via Guam |
| OZ704/623 | 11:55PM | 2:30PM+1 | 2,5 via Incheon |

### INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 |
| 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:30PM | 4 |
| 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:50PM | 3, 7 |
| OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 3, 6 |
| TW307 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 4, 6, 7 |
| TW307 | 9:15AM | 2:30PM | 3 |

### NARITA-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 2:00 AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

### BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:00AM | 2:00PM | 3, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

# MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

## INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2022

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:00 A.M. | 7:15 A.M. | (Except Sundays) |
| 9:50 A.M. | 10:05 A.M. | |
| 4:00 P.M. | 4:15 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 7:35 A.M. | 7:50 A.M. | (Except Sundays) |
| 10:25 A.M. | 10:40 A.M. | |
| 4:35 P.M. | 4:50 P.M. | (Except Saturdays) |

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 8:10 A.M. | 8:40 A.M. | |
| 1:45 P.M. | 2:15 P.M. | |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 9:00 A.M. | 9:30 A.M. | |
| 2:35 P.M. | 3:05 P.M. | |

### SAIPAN TO GUAM

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 11:10 A.M. | 12:00 P.M. | |
| 5:15 P.M. | 6:05 P.M. | |

### GUAM TO SAIPAN

| DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|
| 12:30 P.M. | 1:20 P.M. | |
| 6:40 P.M. | 7:30 P.M. | |

# STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

### SAIPAN TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

### ROTA TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

### ROTA TO GUAM

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

### GUAM TO ROTA

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

### SAIPAN TO TINIAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

### TINIAN TO SAIPAN

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# AT YOUR SERVICE

**Keeping our CNMI community informed of government agencies and non-profit organizations' annual accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2021-2022.**

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

10 | 14 | 22

# EDITOR'S NOTE

Today's issue of *Saipan Tribune* comes with a special supplement called, "At Your Service," which we deemed necessary because some government agencies, autonomous agencies, or non-profit organizations need to update the public on what they have been doing that benefit the public's welfare.

Some government agencies are front and center when it comes to their public roles, like the Department of Finance or the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., so almost everyone knows the agency and have a fairly good inkling of what the agency is doing. Yet there are still aspects of their operation that could benefit from more exposure. Take the Public School System. The public is well aware of many of the accomplishments of PSS and their significant role in the public's lives, yet there are still many aspects of PSS that remain esoteric, like the role federal funding plays in its daily operation, staffing needs, its assets and liabilities, etc.

There are also some groups whose purpose cater to a niche demographic, like the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or agencies that mostly operate behind the scenes, like the Office of the Attorney General, who must be more forthright with what they have accomplished in order for the public to be aware and gain an understanding of these agencies when it comes to their roles in helping the public good. It would be a gross mischaracterization to say that DPL is just all about public lands. There's also the homestead programs, the development of government-owned real estate, etc. Even the Marianas Visitors Authority, which is one of the more well-known government agencies, has some aspects of its operation that could benefit from some exposure. As for the Division of Youth Services, what does it actually do? These and more are questions that this supplement aims to shed light on and we hope this goal is accomplished somewhat.

Journalism has its own "sunshine policy" and it's all about transparency and open governance. This is because it is a basic tenet in journalism that a transparent government is an accountable government that is responsive to the needs of more people and will benefit more. We hope that this supplement lends itself to that illustrious principle.

**Jayvee Vallejera**
Editor, *Saipan Tribune*


# MICRONESIAN LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

## Who We Are

- A non-profit private law office established in 1970 serving the people of Micronesia
- Attorneys, trial counselors or paralegals, and secretaries in our service offices, with leadership, accountants and support staff in our Central (administrative) office
- Our Board of Directors comes from all of Micronesia, and currently includes as President, Robert Ruecho', and other members Jack Ading, John Mafel, Nena Ned, Marcelo Peterson, Harris Rain, Nace Soalablai, Robert T. Torres, and Joshua Walsh.

## By The Numbers

In 2021, we closed 4990 cases.

The top five categories of service in those closed cases were family matters including divorce, child support, and adoptions (1,121); powers of attorney (758); minor guardianships (562); name change (492; and wills and probate (397).

In 2021, we filed 899 new court cases.

Approximately 25% of our clients are aged 60 or older.

## Who We Serve

We serve low income people throughout Micronesia. We have offices in 4 countries!

- CNMI & Guam, USA
- Koror, Republic of Palau
- Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, FSM
- Majuro & Ebeye, Republic of Marshall Islands

## Our Mission

Our mission is to promote equal access to justice and to provide high quality legal assistance to low income people. MLSC improves the lives of the people of Micronesia by helping them solve important legal problems and strengthens communities through advocacy.

## What We Do

MLSC offers free legal assistance to low income persons throughout Micronesia. We handle a wide variety of different kinds of cases that are important to our clients. (We don't handle traffic or criminal cases.)

## CONTACT US:

**Online at** https://www.micronesianlegal.org/
**Or** : Micronesian Legal Services Corporation
**In the Marianas:** 670-234-7729 / 670-234-6243


# VOX POPULI

# What is the **greatest satisfaction** you get from your **job**?

*Saipan Tribune did a survey on some of the longest-serving employees of some government agencies/non-profit organizations and here are their responses:*

**Name: Urbano Babauta**
**Position:** Investigator III
**Years of service:** 34 Years (since Aug. 28, 1988)

"The greatest thing(s) that I am satisfied with my job is not one thing but multiple things, like assisting assistant attorneys general, performing administrative and legal investigations but, most especially, assisting the attorney general. However, to narrow it down to one thing, it would be serving penal summons, witness summons, civil documents and other documents that need to be served. Serving legal documents are vital for the cases filed by the Office of the Attorney General in order for the cases to be finally adjudicated.

**Name: Bernice S. Maratita**
**Position**: **Administrative Officer II**, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/ Sr. High School
Years of service: **33 years, 11 months**

"I think the greatest pleasure I am gaining from my work is seeing our students happy, eager, and fearless in their effort to learn. The past few years have brought challenges and struggles at RHI, but I›ve witnessed first-hand how our kids are remarkably resilient and were able to overcome and adapt to the changing times. Overall, I am truly honored and just so grateful to know that, in some small way, my being here has impacted their learning experiences, accomplishments, and successes in school. They are the reason we serve and do everything we can to teach them, guide them, protect them, and love them just as if they were our own children."

*Continued on Page 15*

# YOUTH AFFAIRS

## BUILDING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

The Youth Affairs Office under the CNMI Office of the Governor's purpose is to develop comprehensive development for our youth in the CNMI. We offer programs and services to the youth to assist them in developing their future. This is the Youth Affairs Office's most active year yet! We've been involved in numerous projects from reopening our youth centers, school field trips, collaborating with our partnering agencies, beach clean ups and so much more! However, our most successful project was our 2022 Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program. We would like to thank the Department of Youth Affairs in Guam for laying the foundation and inspiring us to commence this project here in the CNMI, as well as partnering government agencies and private establishments for assisting us in this launch. Lastly, we would like to extend our utmost gratitude to Governor Torres for always supporting us in what we do and for playing a big role with this summer program.

Youth Affairs

It was an honor to give our youth this opportunity to experience what it's like to be in the workforce.

HERE AT YOUTH AFFAIRS, WE BELIEVE THAT

**"EVERY CHILD IS AN UNCUT DIAMOND."**

Gualo Rai, 1(670)235-1299. Facebook page is: CNMI Youth Affairs Office

# NMPASI

**NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.**

**The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc, or NMPASI, is the CNMI's State Designated protection & advocacy system. Established in 1993, NMPASI is a private, non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities through legally based advocacy (representation, support, or help). NMPASI operates with the mission, "To protect the civil, legal, and human rights of individuals with disabilities".**

NMPASI administers eight federally funded grant programs serving distinct populations of people with disabilities. NMPASI's services are available for qualified individuals with disabilities, who have present alleged rights violations such as, discrimination based on disability or experience barriers to accessing programs and/or services from the federal or local government, or private businesses. Services offered by NMPASI include:

- Information and referral
- Technical assistance
- Legal advice and/or litigation services
- Direct client representation
- Education and training

In Fiscal Year 2022, NMPASI provided direct services to 101 individuals and provided training about legal protections for people with disabilities to 631 people. Please see the services snapshot for detailed information about our case problem areas and demographics of individuals served.

## NMPASI 2022 SERVICES (BY PROGRAMS)

| | | CAP | PABSS | SPBSS | PAAT | PATBI | PAIR | PAIMI | PADD | TOTALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. INFORMATION & REFERRALS** | | 3 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 75 | 11 | 32 | 129 |
| **2. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES** | | 8 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 38 | 12 | 93 |
| | # People Reached | 750 | 1373 | 690 | 696 | 690 | 965 | 3300 | 1420 | 9884 |
| **3. TRAINING ACTIVITIES** | | 6 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 13 | 44 |
| | # People Trained | 107 | 73 | 10 | 70 | 0 | 53 | 61 | 257 | 631 |
| **4. WEBSITE HITS** | | | | | | | | | | **210,765** |
| **5. INDIVIDUAL CASES** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rights Defended | Breach of Confidentiality | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| | Education | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 15 |
| | Employment | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| | Programs & Services | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 11 |
| | Abuse/Neglect | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 2 | 16 |
| | Government Benefits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 12 | 19 |
| | Health Care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| | Insurance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | Housing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Financial Exploitation | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11 |
| | Rights Violation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| | Architectural Access | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| **TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED (1-5)** | | 6 | 5 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 21 | 24 | 35 | 101 |

## INDIVIDUAL CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS (BY PROGRAMS)

| CHARACTERISTICS | | CAP | PABSS | SPBSS | PAAT | PATBI | PAIR | PAIMI | PADD | TOTALS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | 0-2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 3 - 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Age 5-22 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 24 | 29 |
| | Age 23-59 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 7 | 55 |
| | 60 + | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| Sex | Male | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 15 | 22 | 62 |
| | Female | 1 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 9 | 13 | 39 |
| Ethnicity | Caucasian | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 |
| | Asian | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 24 |
| | Hispanic | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Native American | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Pacific Islanders | 5 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 17 | 21 | 69 |
| Disability | ADD/ADHD | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 8 |
| | Autism | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| | Blind | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| | Cancer | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Cerebral Palsy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Cognitive Impairment | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| | Deaf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Developmental Delay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | End Stage Renal Failure | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Environmental, Chemical Sensitivity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Epilepsy, Seizure | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Hard of Hearing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Heart, Circulatory | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Learning Disability | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| | Mental Illness, SED, ODD | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 5 | 32 |
| | Muscular/Skeletal Impairment | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| | Neurological, Org. Brain Syndrome | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| | Orthopedic Impairment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Respiratory Impairment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Speech Impairment | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | TBI | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| | Visual Impairment | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Island | Saipan | 6 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 24 | 33 | 94 |
| | Tinian | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| | Rota | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

This year, NMPASI received Public Health Work Force grant funding which has allowed us to hire staff members on the islands of Tinian and Rota. It is our goal to increase the access to our services to these traditionally underserved population by expanding our workforce to our neighboring islands. Please allow us to introduce our Intake Specialists.

**Pauline Manglona, Intake Specialist-Rota**

Born and raised on Guam, Pauline has been residing on Rota for the past five years. She is married to an "old fashioned" gentleman from Rota and they have two wonderful children. Pauline and her spouse enjoy spending family time with teaching their children our Chamorro culture after making the big decision to move transitioning from their Guam lifestyle of strolling through the Micronesian Mall and watching at the Movie Theaters to a simple and safer lifestyle on Rota like going hunting, fishing, and raising livestock. Pauline's eldest child was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at an early age and later also diagnosed Gastrointestinal Disease. Being a proud parent of a child with a disability is the main reason that she became interested in working for NMPASI, as she wants to help other parents build up their confidence and speak up for their children with disabilities. When asked about working for the community of Rota, Pauline says, "Honestly, I want to assist and help [individuals with disabilities] within my community that aren't able to speak up and want to be heard. I'm lending out my hand and especially my friendly smile to my community to trust me if they need someone to turn to. I want my community to know that NMPASI programs are here on Rota to assist them."

Rota residents seeking NMPASI services may schedule an appointment to meet with Pauline by calling her at (670) 287-9943 or by email at pmanglona@nmpasi.org.

**Jennielyn Cruz, Intake Specialist-Tinian**

Born on Saipan and raised on Tinian, Jennielyn (Jen for short), is pursuing a degree in Early Childhood at Northern Marianas College. Jen counts cooking, listening to music, dancing, and singing as her hobbies along with spending quality time with her two children and her dudus chihuahua, Paris. She values her family, friends, and her community. Having experiences in interacting with students with disabilities and a desire to help her community "in way or another" brought her to NMPASI. When asked about what interests her in working for NMPASI, Jen says, "my interest [in] working with NMPASI is protecting the rights of our people who have [problems with] accessibility around our community today and knowing that I am capable of making a positive impact in anyone's life."

Tinian residents seeking NMPASI services may schedule an appointment with Jen by calling her at (670) 287-9937 or by email at jcruz@nmpasi.org.

**NAME OF THE LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:** Greg Borja
**NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE:** 20 years (May 2002)
**WHAT IS YOUR POSITION:** Executive Director
**WHAT IS THE GREATEST SATISFACATION YOU GET FROM YOUR JOB?** Giving someone a voice when they are unable to speak, gives me the greatest satisfaction in my job. By helping people with disabilities overcome obstacles in their lives by providing them the skills they may need to advocate on behalf of themselves or their family members is the goal of NMPASI, as "Independence Should be a Common Wealth."

**For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 287-0652 [text message] or contact us on-line at www.nmpasi.org.**

**NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S.* ***Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)****/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the* ***U.S. Department of Education (DOE)****/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the* ***Social Security Administration (SSA)****.*

*From Page 12*

**Name: Maria P. Muña**

**Years of service**: 51 years

**Position**: Paralegal, Micronesian Legal Services Corp.

"[The greatest satisfaction I get from my job] is helping people."

**Name: Victorino Cepeda**

**Position**: External Affairs, Northern Marianas Technical Institute

**Years of service:** 14 years

"When I see a student enroll, take classes, then works in their skill they learned from our campus. That's the greatest satisfaction to me."

*Continued on Page 25*


The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services' mission is to protect the lives and property of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – both visitors and residents alike – from fires, natural disasters, and hazardous material incidents by providing emergency medical services as well as preventing fire through mitigation and education programs.

- Recently graduated the 14th Cycle Fire Academy cadets on January 7, 2022
- New bunker gear from different grants and NMHC
- Multiple deployments for our Wildland Forestry Strike Team to California to help battle the wildland fires.
- Completion of new EMS, Prevention, and Administration Offices.
- Completion of new DFEMS Command Center.
- Outreach at schools for Fire Prevention and showcasing the Fire trucks and ambulances.

Office Location: Capitol Hill on the 1300 Block past the Capitol Hill Post Office and Department of Treasury

https://www.facebook.com/CNMIDFEMS @dfemscnmi670

In case of fire, call 911.



# A GLANCE 2021-2022

NORTHERN MARIANAS NMTECH TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

- ESTABLISHED A FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
- AGREEMENT WITH NMHC THAT PROVIDES IN-HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP FOR CONSTRUCTION TRADES CALLED THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
- MOU WITH DOC OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR PILOT PROGRAM WITH INMATES – A COHORT OF 9 ELIGIBLE DETAINEES HAVE COMPLETED CORE FUNDAMENTALS
- MOU WITH THE NMC MARIANAS COLLEGE IN CELEBRATION OF APPRENTICESHIP
- SITE VISIT TO ROTA AND TINIAN TO CONNECT WITH MAYORS AND RESIDENT DIRECTORS OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DOL, AND NMC TO EXPLORE OPTIONS IN EXPANDING
- PARTNER WITH ISLAND SUMMER AUTO FEST AND TEAM EXOTIC MINIS MARIANAS CHAPTER, WE DONATED SUPPLIES AND NON-PERISHABLE GOODS TO THE TONGA RELIEF DRIVE;
- MOU WITH PSS TO PROVIDE A "TRADING UP" DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
- OSHA-10 TRAINING COMPLETION FOR ALL NMTECH ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL AND OSHA-30 TRAINING CURRENTLY IN MOTION FOR ALL FACULTY AND MANAGEMENT;
- LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE: WWW.NMTECHCNMI.ORG;
- PACIFIC MINI GAMES PROJECT: BUILD A 15-FOOT LATTE STONE PILLAR, UMPIRE CHAIRS FOR TENNIS, MEDAL PODIUMS
- CULINARY STUDENTS HAVE SUCCESSFULLY BEEN PLACED IN INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS WITH THE HOTELS AND SMALL BUSINESSES
- ESTABLISHED CLASSROOM, OFFICE AND STORAGE SPACE AT NMTECH TO HOUSE THE WESTERN PACIFIC MARITIME ACADEMY (WPMA) FOR US COAST GUARD APPROVED CURRICULUM
- REVISING LEGISLATION ON A CONTRACTORS LICENSING BOARD AND TO ESTABLISH A CNMI CHAPTER

670-235-6684 WWW.NMTECHCNMI.ORG CNMI.NMTI

# At Your Service

# DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES (DYS)

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

## DYS SECTIONS

**Office of the Administrator:** Supportive Services; Human Resource; Accounting; Grants; Data; Outreach

**Child Protective Services (CPS):** 24/7 Response on Child Abuse and Neglect Reports; Assessments and Monitoring; Case Management; Forensic Interviews; Linkages and Referrals; Supervision of Tinian and Rota CPS Cases; Emergency Shelter and Foster Care/Kinship Placements

**Emergency Shelter (ES):** Home away from home; temporary placement for children removed from home for protective custody; provide daily care, including meals; assist with school work/projects; provide transportation to and from school and appointments and coordinate and deliver shelter programs

**Juvenile Probation:** 24/7 Crisis Response to Juvenile Cases/Delinquency Reports; Monitoring of Court Ordered Conditions for Juveniles; Case Management; Rehabilitative Services at the Juvenile Detention; Linkages and Referrals and Supervise Tinian and Rota Juvenile Cases

**Family & Youth Enhancement Program (F&YEP):** Evidenced-Based Programs for youth & adults; Youth and Adult Support Groups; Education/Training; Employment; Housing; Volunteer Recruitment and Retention; Juvenile Detention Rehabilitative Services; Kagman Community Center; Tanapag Youth Center; Networking & Outreach Events

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Address: P.O. Box 501000, Saipan, MP 96950**
**DYS Website: http://dys.gov.mp**
**DCCA Wesbite: http://dcca.gov.mp**

**Admin: (670) 237-1000 to 1004**
**Vivian T. Sablan, DYS Administrator**
**Email: vsablan@dys.gov.mp**

### CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES: (670) 237-1005 to 1014

**Julian R. Camacho,**
**Child Protective Services Supervisor**
**Email: jrcamacho@dys.gov.mp**

### JUVENILE PROBATION: (670) 237-1024 to 1030

**Sylvio S. Ada, Juvenile Probation Supervisor**
**Email: sada@dys.gov.mp**

### FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM:

**Jennifer O. Tanaka,**
**Family & Youth Enhancement Program Supervisor**
**Email: jtanaka@dys.gov.mp**
- **Tanapag Youth Center (670) 664-2599**
- **Kagman Community Center (670) 237-1015 to 1019**

### TINIAN DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES:

**(670) 433-9272**
**Augusta F. King, Caseworker II**
**Email: afamaw@dys.gov.mp**

### ROTA DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES: (670) 532-9393

**Quindy Maratita, Caseworker II**
**Email: qmmaratita@dys.gov.mp**
**Mildred Sikebert, Caseworker I**
**Email: mwsikebert@dys.gov.mp**

**GET IN TOUCH**

DYS TINIAN: 433-9393 or 287-3268
DYS ROTA: 532-9393 or 287-2553

DYS Website: http://www.dys.gov.mp
DCCA Website: http://www.dcca.gov.mp

# DYS FY 2022 DATA

| CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|
| CHILD ABUSE CASE CASES | 271 | 285 | 345 |
| NUMBER OF VICTIMS | 743 | 863 | 956 |
| TYPES OF ALLEGATION | | | |
| PHYSICAL ABUSE | 74 | 64 | 79 |
| SEXUAL ABUSE | 63 | 70 | 76 |
| EMOTIONAL ABUSE | 129 | 152 | 171 |
| NEGLECT-GENERAL | 89 | 158 | 173 |
| OTHERS (SUPPORT SERVICES, TEEN PREG., DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING, TRUANCY, SUICIDAL) | 73 | 55 | 127 |
| NEGLECT BREAKDOWN | | | |
| | EDUCATIONAL | | 48 |
| | EMOTIONAL | | 26 |
| | MEDICAL | | 9 |
| | PHYSICAL | | 90 |
| | TOTAL | | 173 |
| SUPPORTIVE SERVICES BREAKDOWN | | | |
| | DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHERE CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED | | 18 |
| | DRUG RELATED | | 28 |
| | SUICIDE | | 8 |
| | TRUANCY | | 12 |
| | TEEN PREGNANCY | | 8 |
| | ASSAULT & BATTERY | | 1 |
| | RUNAWAY | | 2 |
| | HOMELESS | | 2 |
| | CUSTODY | | 2 |
| | WELLNESS CHECK UP | | 2 |
| | BEYOND CONTROL | | 1 |
| | REFERRAL FOR SERVICES | | 43 |
| | TOTAL | | 127 |

| JUVENILE PROBATION | FY2020 | FY2021 | FY 2022 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NUMBER OF JUVENILES ON PROBATION | 45 | 63 | 79 |
| NUMBER OF INCARCERATED YOUTH SERVED<br>NUMBER OF YOUTH SERVED WITH THE PSS STUDENT | 81 | 25 | 29 |
| ATTENDANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE (SARC) | 46 | 88 | 119 |
| **EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM** | **FY2020** | **FY2021** | **FY 2022** |
| NUMBER OF CHILDREN SHELTERED | 19 | 37 | 39 |
| **FOSTER CARE PROGRAM** | **FY2020** | **FY2021** | **FY 2022** |
| NUMBER OF CHILDREN FOSTERED | 31 | 34 | 9 |
| NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN KINSHIP PLACEMENT | 1 | 24 | 15 |
| **FAMILY & YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROG.** | **FY2020** | **FY2021** | **FY 2022** |
| NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED | 469 | 511 | 1313 |
| **DYS ROTA** | **FY2020** | **FY2021** | **FY 2022** |
| CHILD ABUSE CASE CASES | | | 12 |
| NUMBER OF VICTIMS | | | 20 |
| TYPES OF ALLEGATION<br>PHYSICAL ABUSE | | | 0 |
| SEXUAL ABUSE | | | 5 |
| EMOTIONAL ABUSE | | | 7 |
| NEGLECT-GENERAL | | | 8 |
| OTHERS (SUPPORT SERVICES, TEEN PREG., DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING, TRUANCY, SUICIDAL) | | | 16 |

# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

## ABOUT US

With a vision for a strong and mutually beneficial collaboration between the CNMI and the U.S. Department of Defense that recognizes and preserves the cultural values of the people, Governor Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres established the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs on July 19, 2019, through Executive Order 2019-09, with the overall objective to improve communication, coordination and response of the CNMI government to the United States Military, and to ensure the relationship between the military and the CNMI is one based on mutual respect and benefit.

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and
Admiral John Aquilino, INDOPACOM Commander

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, through its Executive Order mandate, serves as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Central Clearinghouse of all communication, documents, and information between the Department of Defense (DoD), and its various departments and commands. In furthering its mandate, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs through the Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs serves as the liaison between the DoD and the government of the CNMI and aids, assists, and coordinates the CNMI government in its engagements with the DoD.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs is also mandated to establish and maintain the CNMI repository of all military and military-related records; to facilitate military integration into the Community; and to seek to promote economic opportunities and activities through engagement with the DoD creating stronger ties with the CNMI and its residents.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs regularly monitors military related matters for the Governor and formulates plans and policies that create a comprehensive approach for coordinating programs and activities that result in an improved relationship between the CNMI and the U.S. Armed Forces.

## LEADERSHIP

**Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres**
**Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

**Glenna Sakisat Palacios**
**Special Assistant to the Governor for Military Affairs**

## SUPPORT TEAM

Central Office
Seven (7) Personnel

Tinian Satellite Office
Two (2) Personnel

## WHO WE ENGAGE WITH

### UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

The U.S. Department of Defense Armed Forces (U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army) and various components assigned to the Indo-Pacific Theater), along with the Pentagon, the National Guard Bureau, the U.S. Coast Guard and relevant federal agencies and contractors.

In the Marianas, CBMA works in close collaboration with INDOPACOM LNO to the CNMI, Joint Region Marianas (JRM), U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas, 36th Wing Anderson Air Force Base, and Marines Corps Base Camp Blaz.

### GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Government departments, agencies, offices, other entities of the Executive Branch, heads of independent entities, government instrumentalities and government public corporations, the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Mayors of each respective municipality, Office of the Attorney General, and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

## WHO WE SERVE

CBMA supports the goals and vision for the entire CNMI population across Saipan, Tinian, Rota and the Northern Islands and serves a total population of over 50,000 residents and their desires for cooperation and benefits from military activities on their islands.

## OUR PROGRESS

CENTRAL CLEARINGHOUSE

**COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs established protocols with CNMI Departments and Agencies and with the Department of Defense to streamline communication channels on all military related matters.

In partnership with the INDOPACIFIC Command and Joint Region Marianas, the Department of Defense Aircraft and Personnel Automated Clearance System was activated to centralize communication and military footprint flows via entry authorization protocol through the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs.

### CRITICAL COORDINATION HIGHLIGHTS

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs planned and executed critical coordination activities ranging from Dignitary Visitors, pre-deployment site survey activities, natural resources survey activities, turtle survey activities, non-combatant training exercises with community members, to include taken on a lead role in CNMI-DOD MITT Technical Working Group, CNMI-DOD CJMT Technical Working Group, CNMI-DOD Divert Technical Working Group, FDM Summit, CNMI-DOD Chiget Range UXO Clean-up Technical Working Group, CNMI-DOD Industry Days and CNMI-FEMA Industry Days, to name a few.

### REPOSITORY OF MILITARY RECORDS

Established an internal repository of Department of Defense related resources and maintains a depository of resource library with more than 87,404 accessible records, to date.

Established a Land Analysis System to provide a centralized and secure data library for all GIS, CADD, and planning documents, including of geo-referenced, high-resolution aerial images of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

### MILITARY INTEGRATION

To advance this mandate, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military formulated plans and policies that create a comprehensive approach for coordinating programs and activities that result in an improved relationship between the CNMI and the U.S. Armed Forces. Through its Community Relations Program, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs coordinated numerous government, non-profit and community relations activities with various military service components, to include military labor support on community projects.

Some of these activities include but not limited to beach and school campus cleanups, vegetation clearance at public roads, painting of public facilities, field activities with students, renovation of public facilities, sports activities with community members, non-combatant humanitarian exercises between military personnel and residents, successful coordination alongside Lady Diann Torres Foundation and CNMI government departments and agencies for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Activity Guam Toys for Tots Program, to include veterinary services at no cost to the community.

### MILITARY FOOTPRINT

As part of its mandate, CBMA regularly monitors military related matters for the Governor through its Clearinghouse and with active participations on military engagements throughout the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

| Military Dignitary / Congressional and Federal Agency – Military Support Visits | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 10 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 06 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 23 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 11 |

| Military Aircraft / Military on Commercial Footprint | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 14 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 28 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 175 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 182 |

| Military Ship Footprint | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 03 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 121 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 151 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 82 |

| Military Personnel Footprint | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 1408 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 1296 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 1844 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 884 |

| Military Training Exercises on Rota | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 05 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 03 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 03 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 03 |

| Military Training Exercises on Tinian | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 21 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 09 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 19 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 04 |

| Military Training Exercises on Saipan | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 10 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 06 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 10 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 02 |

| Military Training Exercises on Farallon de Mendinilla | |
|---|---|
| July 2019 – December 2019 | 87 |
| January 2020 – December 2020 | 100 |
| January 2021 – December 2021 | 104 |
| January 2022 – October 2022 | 85 |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

## PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

CBMA seeks to promote economic opportunities and activities through engagement with the DoD creating stronger ties with the CNMI and its residents. To advance its mandate in the development of employment and economic opportunities for CNMI communities, CBMA works closely with service components' training exercise planners and contracting officers to connect them to readily available products and services to support training requirements and military personnel life support.

***Annual Economic Impact of Maritime Prepositioning Ships Squadron 3 vessels within the 7th Fleet Area of Operations:***
$4M annually for food provisions, laundry services, garbage disposal, husbanding agency fees, security services, stores and miscellaneous purchases, medical, transportation, hotels for technicians, inspectors and crew turnovers, expenditures for mariners ashore on liberty, maintenance of ships, etc.

***Economic Impact of Service Components' Training Exercises in the CNMI for Fiscal Year 2019 – Fiscal Year 2022***

Food caterings, laundry services, solid waste and waste water disposal, biosecurity washdown, port operations, boat charters, security services, stores and miscellaneous purchases, medical, transportation, lodging, storage, portable latrines, hand-washing stations, bottled waters, fuel supply, and other life support requirements:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Koa Moana | $121K | Freedom Banner | $155K |
| Foragers | $400K | Pac Agility | $575K |
| 1st Special Forces | $450K | Valiant Shield | $400K |
| Cope North | $1M | PACFLT Activities | $1.2M |
| JET-P Fuel | $480K | | |

***Defense Contracting Support***
Marianas-based firms have the opportunity to participate as contributing partners in the numerous federal procurement events that occur throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year 2021, CBMA expanded its initiatives to include defense contracting support. Staffed with contracting specialists, CBMA is providing procurement technical assistance to local vendors to develop organizational capacity and know-how to navigate and participate in the federal marketplace.

In Fiscal Year 2021, CBMA clients gained access to an aggregate amount of $57.6M ($656.5K DoD awards) in federal contracts and $38M ($37.2K DoD awards) in Fiscal Year 2022, to date.
The following are the services provided to CNMI vendors to increase local capacity in competing for federal contracts in the CNMI and in the region:

**Training and Workshops**
- One-on-One Counseling
- Federal Contracting Overview
- Procurement Technical Assistant
- DUNS & SAMS Registration
- Small Business Profile on SAM
- Dynamic Small Business Search Engine
- How to market to the Federal Government
- Capability Statement
- Set-Asides [8(a) WOSB VOSB HUBZones
- Steps to Success, and more.

**Connecting Resources**
- Doing Business with Defense Logistics Agency
- CNMI Industry Day in partnershio with NAVFACPAC NAVFACMAR and DoD Prime / Sub-Contractors with local vendors
- Doing Business with FEMA
- Market Research
- Sources Sought
- Military Trainings
- Innovative Readiness Training
- Bid Matching
- Teaming Agreement

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CBMA led numerous round-table discussions between the CNMI government and the Department of Defense with the following notable partnership engagements:

In partnership with INDOPACOM LNO Captain Kimberly Hofschneider, Protocol Officer Jean Chabanne of Marines Corps Base Camp Blaz and the MARFORPAC Band, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs won the 2022 Liberation Day Float Competition.

In Fiscal Year 2022, CBMA secured military support for veterinary services for 240 animals spayed and neutered and 302 animals vaccinated at no cost to Saipan pet owners. CBMA also secured Military support for full medical mission in Fiscal Year 2023, which would include dental, optometry, behavior health, public health education campaign, and veterinary services at no cost to residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Serving as the Co-Chair to the CNMI-DOD CJMT Technical Working Group, CBMA takes a lead role in round table discussions with DoD counterparts to address CNMI concerns. The initial proposed CJMT program has been descoped with the removal of the island of Pagan altogether from the proposal and in the removal of the proposed bombing activities on Tinian.

Worked in unison with NAVFACMAR, NAVFACPAC, USAE, and the Tinian Mayor's Office for the completion of Chiget Mortar Range Non-Time-Critical Removal Action Remediation Project, which is now open to public access.

In an effort to preserve the cultural/natural resources on Pagan, CBMA coordinated and executed a joint field characterization survey activities on the island for an entire month, with the Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos and CNMI government agencies.

MITT Environmental Technical Working Group comprised of representatives from Pacific Fleet and Joint Region Marianas and CNMI government resource partners to discuss impacts of proposed DoD activities in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing, to include MITT Final SEIS technical review and comment submission by Governor Torres for MITT and Divert FSEIS, along with CNMI Agencies.

FDM Summit to discuss DoD impact on the Island of Farallon de Mednilla

Divert Design Review on the Divert Airfield and Operation infrastructure projects currently underway in Tinian, as well as with the Divert and MITT Programmatic Agreement Technical Working Groups.

Continuing efforts toward breaking into the military tourism market with more military ships making port calls within the last two years.

Completion of the CNMI Resilient Sustainable Islands Management Plan. A planning effort to identify systemic challenges to CNMI development and seek viable solutions to promote sustainable development opportunities and capacity building in line with DoD related activities in the CNMI.

**RSIMP KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE ISLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Development of Land Fill on Tinian
- Development of Wastewater Treatment System on Tinian
- Increase potable water capacity on Tinian
- Construct new breakwater on Tinian
- Target investment incentives toward the construction of new housing units
- Seek establishment of National Guard Unit in the CNMI
- Build upon the Tinian Healthcare Infrastructure
- Increase domestic workforce participation in DoD activities
- Establish a CNMI Contractors Association
- Continue to develop and cultivate contracting skillset among local businesses for integration of local businesses in defense contracting opportunities
- Target investment incentives to develop a military contracting industry

BG Jeremy T. Sloane, Commander, 36th Wing of Andersen Air Force Base, Rear Admiral Benjamin Nicholson, Commander of Joint Region Marianas, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, Admiral John Aquilino, INDOPACOM Commander, Major General Mark Hashimoto, Mobilization Assistant to INDOPACOM Commander, Fleet Master Chief James Honea.

## OUR FINANCES

Since its establishment, CBMA as had zero impact to the CNMI Government Budget. CBMA manages and operates several multi-year grant awards in the amount of $12.2M secured through competitive grant funding opportunities to fund personnel, operations, programs, to include for the renovation of two government facilities to house CBMA and has since expanded staffing to support greater levels of service to the CNMI population. With a balance of $3.1M, CBMA continues to deliver services in the execution of its mandate.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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# At your Service

## 2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## COMMUNITY

- The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, Public Private Partnerships
- Reopening of HOPE Recovery Center following TCRA
- Support of local non-profit organizations
- Hosted Veterans Town Halls
- Issued first homestead lots in 15 years

## CULTURE

- Project Liffang led by the Carolinian Affairs Office and Indigenous Affairs Office
- Seafaring Traditions Program
- Support for the House of Chamorros
- Hafa Adai Tirow Tuesday & Thursdays

## ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC LANDS

- Executive Order 2022-05: Creation of the Governor's Environmental Council to formulate policy initiatives or community activities to encourage environmental protection, conservation, and sustainable development.
- Created the universal garbage collected plan to provide greater access to solid waste collection services.

## EDUCATION

- 2022 Summer Youth Program & 2022 Governor's Summer Youth Employment Program
- Proclaimed November 15-21, 2021 as National Apprenticeship Week in the CNMI, which included NMC, NMTech, PSS, and the CNMI Department of Labor
- The Marianas School Pride under the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers

## FEDERAL PARTNERS

- Strengthened partnership with DOI - OIA, DOD, DOT, VA, White House, and many federal partners
- Continued advocacy for CNMI workforce and economy
- Increased federal funding for infrastructure and improvement projects
- No Bombing in Pagan
- Tinian Divert Airfield

## FEDERAL RELATIONSHIPS & ECONOMY

- **ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)**
  - (2) Economic Impact Payments; stimulus distributions
  - Utility vouchers issued to assist residents due to increased power rates
  - BOOST Program designed to help spur economic growth and provide opportunities to profit and non-profit organizations.
  - Assisting community and local non-profit organizations
  - Support for local government operations

## GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION

- Implementation of E-Government Online Permitting System
- Awarded a grant from FTA for ferry feasibility study and transportation master plan
- Awarded a grant for implementation of Electric Vehicles charging stations
- Creation of Office of Information Technology

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**HONORABLE RALPH DLG. TORRES**

**WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI**

*Un Guinaiya & Tipiyeew*

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Support for athletes
  - Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games
- Fit to Lead Initiative
  - Governor's commitment to live and lead fit
  - Fit to Lead 5K CNMI Tourism Month Fun Run
  - Directive 2022-001 allowing two hours per week for each employee to take care of physical and mental health
- Trek around Saipan to benefit Commonwealth Cancer Association

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roadside improvements
  - Isa Dr | Airport Rd. | Quartermaster Rd. Route 36 | Industrial Drive
- Garapan Revitalization Project
- CNMI Broadband Project (OPD, BEAD Program)
- 36 kW Solar Photovoltaic System for Rota Aquaponics
- Creation of Energy Task Force
- Largest Economic Agency Award to a single jurisdiction

## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Modernizing Public Safety Resources
- New Personnel Protective Equipment to the Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
- Crime rate down 65.3%

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- COTA CNMI Public Transportation (new location, state of the art building)
- COTA assistance in COVID-19 response

## RECOVERY EFFORT & DISASTER RESPONSE

- Governor's COVID-19 Task Force protocols and guidelines to safeguard community
- Creation of COVID-19 Care Force
- Provided supplies to regional islands

## RETIREES

- Continued commitment in ensuring our Retirees receive their pensions
- Provided our Retirees with bonus of $1,000

## TOURISM

- Bringing back the Japanese market with the introduction of direct flights from Narita to Saipan with United Airlines
- TRIP; Successful travel bubble with South Korea
- Brought in new airline to serve inter-island transportation in Marianas Southern Airways

# Office of Planning and Development
# Office of the Governor

AT YOUR
SERVICE

## *A more #SustainableCNMI and how we'll get there*

**ACTION ITEM:**

- By 2021 and every five years after, a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy will be submitted, with proposals on priority projects that focus on critical infrastructure and growth planning, economic diversification, job creation, and other economic development opportunities.

**Next upcoming CEDS Update:**
**2025**

**Projects included in 2019 CEDS Update:**
**190**

OPD is in close collaboration with agency partners to collect additional priority project and feedback that will be incorporated into 2025 update.

**SDG #11'S PURPOSE:**

"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable."

**Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Events Center Facilities Development Project**

**$21.2 million**

— The largest single project grant award to a state or territory in U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) history

**Garapan Revitalization Project**

**$11.2 million**

Cons. Start: **Sep. 2022**

Cons. Schedule: **18-24 mos.**

**SDG #12'S PURPOSE:**

"Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns."

**By 2030, 50%**

of the CNMI's **recyclable waste** will be **diverted away** from the CNMI's landfill or RCRA-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands

**The diverted waste will be:**

Composted · Reused · Sold

**ACTION ITEM:**

- By 2022, OPD obtains complete coverage maps for cell and broadband coverage and works with Commerce to update HIES survey data specific to internet accessibility to support planning efforts that include subsidy programs, public-private partnerships, or community connection hubs.

**OPD Broadband Project**

**10**
**Community Pillars Priority Project Finalists**

**"Community Pillars" include:**

- Schools and Colleges (GCA, NMC, NMTech)
- Libraries
- Youth Centers

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Continue SSG Training Development and outreach efforts
- By 2023, launch SSG Toolkit on OPD website to support integration of SSG into early planning and project scoping

**Smart, Safe Growth (SSG) Training, July 2022**

Over **90** Attendees from various government agencies and organizations

Currently, OPD is working with training attendees to fine-tune SSG Toolkit

**Work towards achieving these goals is made possible through OPD's many partners, which include:**

# AT YOUR SERVICE

## *A more #SustainableCNMI and how we'll get there, contd.*

## Socio-Economic and Disaster Risk Reduction

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- By 2025, Dept. of Commerce works with the Socio-Economics Taskforce to establish a baseline for "living wages" for localized poverty assessment
- By 2025, CUC will work with OPD and PDAC to include water and waster water community projects into capital improvement funding requests

**BY 2030,**

bring the CNMI's poverty level down to **30% or lower**

**100%** inside flush toilets with compliant wastewater management and 24-hour palatable water services

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- By 2025, metrics and plan for implementation of sustainable agricultural homestead program are established
- Sustainable agriculture workshops held to identify target audiences, develop an action plan including metrics and supporting objectives further

**BY 2030,**

CNMI Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from agriculture increases from **1.7%** in 2016 **to 2.5%** in 2030

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2023, OPD works with CHCC, the Office of the Mayor of Rota, and other partners to conduct a feasibility study on an alternative health care system with the goal to make healthcare more affordable, improve access to healthcare resources, advance and improve the inter-island medical referral program, etc.

**BY 2030,**

CHCC continues to **track and make progress** towards meeting all components of **SDG #3** objectives and indicators

The CNMI will **develop a plan** to support the needs of the coming generation of Manamko' with the Aging Center and Municipal partners

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- By 2022, NMC and PSS will re-evaluate and update their Memorandum of Understanding to support student readiness and
- By 2025, NMC and PSS incorporates program priorities into an integrated education plan for lifelong learning opportunities in the CNMI

**BY 2030,**

Crime rates in public schools **reduced by at least 2.5%** from 2019

Proportion of incoming NMC freshmen **placed in developmental courses reduced by 10%** from 2020

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2022, OPD will work with the Women's Affairs Office, PDAC, and planning taskforce partners as well as active community groups to establish a community meeting schedule for refining objectives and developing a gender equality, equity, and empowerment planning component including LBGTQIA+ goals and supporting objectives

**BY 2030,**

At least **33%** of the members of the CNMI Legislature will be women

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2023, Commerce, Finance, OMB, and OPD with support of PDAC and planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies that address poverty reduction.

**BY 2030,**

less than **30%** of the CNMI population is living below 50 percent of the U.S. median income

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2023, DPS and OPD, with support of the PDAC, CHCC, and other planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies that support reduction of physical, psychological, and sexual violence in the CNMI.

**BY 2030,**

**10%** reduction in violent crimes compared to 2020 levels

## Built Environment

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2022, CUC's Master Plan will be updated to include details that address what steps are necessary and sufficient to reduce the salinity of water in Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands

**BY 2030,**

CUC's Master plan for drinking water will ensure access to **healthy, palatable, affordable, and sustainable drinking water for all communities of the CNMI.**

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- By 2022, CUC will endorse a Comprehensive Energy Plan detailing the steps necessary and sufficient to diversify the CNMI's energy portfolio towards renewable energy standards
- By 2023, CUC will have identified pilot projects to support a phased Comprehensive Energy Plan and a plan is in place to address existing and future community needs

**BY 2030,**

CUC and planning partners have implemented an **integrated utility scale photovoltaic system** to meet **20%** of the respective **peak demand** for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands.

## Natural Resources

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- By 2023, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and other funding streams have been leveraged to construct a 45,000-gallon coral tank and closed loop filtration system at a site designated for Marine Center build-out
- By 2025, the Marine Center will be fully funded and constructed with support from OPD and the Natural Resources Taskforce

**BY 2030,**

**The construction of the Marine Center will be complete and result in:**

**Job creation** through inter-agency marine studies

**Integration** with school curriculum and outreach programs

**Sustainable revenue generation** through guided tours, book sales, special events, and/or other dedicated funding mechanisms.

**ACTION ITEM:**
- By 2025, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will update the State Wildlife Action Plan and continue periodic updates every 10 years with data and input included from natural resource management partners at BECQ as appropriate

**BY 2030,**

There are **interagency programs** to support active management of prioritized resources and management areas on land and in nearshore waters **reflected in the CSDP Update**

At least **30%** of terrestrial resources are being effectively managed through **site-specific management plans**

**Office of Planning and Development**
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## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hafa Adai and Tirow! I would like to say Happy Friday and invite everyone to the NMI Museum's "FIESTA FRIDAY". Our Fiesta Friday events, was established to support and increase traffic to the museum. During our evening events, the museum is opened on Friday's until 9pm, giving residents the opportunity to view and be educated about our rich Chamorro and Carolinian history.

On October 28, 2022, the NMI Museum will be partnering with the Rotary and Rotaract Club of Saipan to have our 2ND annual Halloween "NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS" event. This year, we plan to have a costume contest and present winners with amazing prizes. We will also be passing out over 2,000 bags of candies to children.

Despite the challenges we experience, the staff of the museum (James Macaranas, Archibald Ajoste, and Wenny Haruo), work extremely hard to ensure for the success of all our evening events. The evening events attracted over 11,000 residents and tourists for fiscal year 2022 alone and we anticipate this number to increase as tourism increases.

I would like to thank the NMI Museum Governing Board and Governor Torres for their confidence in my leadership. I want to thank Governor Torres for his financial assistance with ARPA funding that made lots of the upgrades, repairs and activities possible. I want to thank Mayor Apatang for his assistance with tables and chairs during our "PAINT NIGHT" events, for the aggregate and equipment used to spread the aggregate on our muddy grounds and for fuel to perform beautification projects. I want to also thank the Saipan and Northern Island Delegation for their financial assistance with supplemental funding.

I want to thank the people of the CNMI for their patience and support for the museum. Having over 11,000 residents visit the museum is a very big achievement and something to all be proud of.

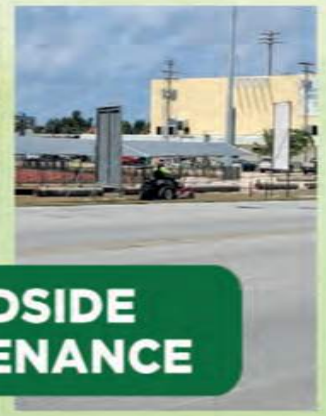
Thank you and Best Wishes,

**Danny Aquino**
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE

For more information, please call 670.664-2160
www.nmimuseum.org

## Fiesta FRIDAYS



## ROADSIDE MAINTENANCE

NMC PROJECT PROA

DYS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

MVA WORLD TOURISM DAY

TANAPAG MIDDLE SCHOOL HEALTH & WELL BEING CLUB

KOBLERVILLE ELEM 5TH GRADERS

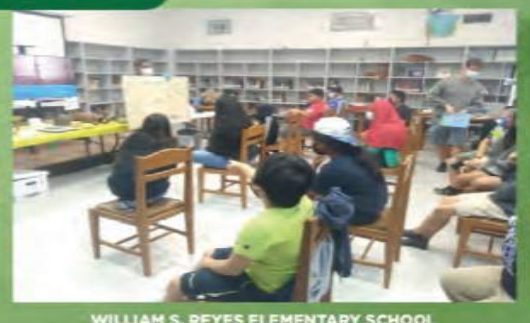
## VISITATIONS

## TRAVELING MUSEUM

DANDAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

GARAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY CLASS



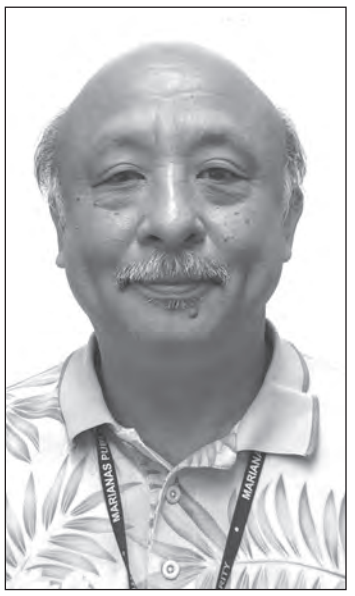
WILLIAM S. REYES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*From Page 15*

**Name: Hermis Jim**
**Position:** WIC Nutrition Technician
**Years of service:** 16
"[My greatest job satisfaction is] being able to assist and serve families in our community and working with a great team."

**Name: Gregory P. Deleon Guerrero**
**Years of service: 30 years (all @ DPL)**
**Position: Director, Compliance Division, Department of Public Lands**



"Working for one of the CNMI government's most valuable resource that is public land is a rewarding and interesting experience. You develop institutional knowledge and skills in the management aspects from an autonomous agency to a department under the Executive Branch. The challenges you face on a daily basis is quite overwhelming, and overcoming those challenges and obstacles with the help and support of staffs and management is truly satisfying."

**Name: Alfreda Camacho Maratita**
**Position:** Special Assistant for Public Transportation for the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority
**Years of service**: 9 years and 2 months

"The greatest satisfaction that I get from serving at this agency is helping my team members advance their career goals in public transportation. Leading a team of individuals who pride themselves on the importance of moving our community around through an alternative form of transportation has been rewarding and fulfilling over the nine years that I have been a part of this wonderful organization. I am a firm believer that transit changes lives and I am so grateful to see that in each one of these men and women who make up the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority."

**Name: Col. Marvin P. Sablan**
**Years in service**: 33 years (since October 1989)
**Agency**: Division of Customs and Biosecurity

"I enjoy my job because I help to keep our islands safe from drugs. Protecting our borders is more than just a job, it is part of who I am and the team that I have worked with over the years. My three decades of experience has taught me that while it is beneficial to have additional resources to assist officers in detecting drugs, an officer's skills and knowledge will always be the backbone of border security. It is officer training and skills that allow us to identify counterfeit items, determine undervaluation of commodities, among others. I look forward to serving many more years as a Customs Biosecurity Officer at the Division of Customs Biosecurity, Department of Finance.

**Name: Jacqueline A. Quitugua**
**Position:** Senior director for Curriculum and Instruction; Rota Elementary School and Rota High School then moved to Central in 1984-2006 as Science, Health/HIV program specialist and now, senior director for Curriculum and Instruction
**Years of service:** 42 years, 3 months
"The greatest satisfaction I have is seeing our students reach their hopes and dreams, drawing the fullest potential of our students and are contributing to the community and their families! When we see our students taking lead in various agencies, businesses, and wider communities—local and abroad—we can then say we have done well (big or small). And when parents, teachers, and other stakeholders including students share their struggles, I call that 'unfinished work' and 'lessons learned.' I must work harder to meet the needs of the new students and the next generation. Honestly, I never even counted the years, it is a daily calling and responding to the needs of our children and serving/supporting our teachers and school leaders."

*Continued on Page 30*

**Name: Probio D. Cabrera**
**Position:** Statistical Specialist III, **Office of Accountability, Research, and Evaluation**

**Years of service:** 32 years, 11 months
"I am happy to be part of the CNMI Public School System›s family. I acknowledged working for the CNMI Public School System for over 30 years, working through eight Commissioner of Education. The most satisfying for this job is maintaining responsibilities in my capacity throughout these years, being able to provide the required meaningful basic education data and information, for both local and state levels."

**Name: Erlinda Cabrera Naputi**
**Years of service:** 30 years
**Position:** Library Director
"My job's greatest satisfaction is ensuring that we continue to provide quality library services to our entire community in the Marianas (Saipan, Rota, Tinian)."

At Your Service

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit environmental organization established in 2005 by a group of individuals who shared a passion for preserving our island's natural resources for future generations. Funded primarily by grants from the Department of the Interior, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the annual Green Gala, MINA is led by a team of volunteer Board of Directors, a full-time staff of six, and a total of fifteen Tasi Watch Rangers.

MINA's accomplishments over the past year are a reflection of the hard work and dedication of the people who make up MINA's team. The largest of MINA's projects for 2022 was the biological assessments, coral translocation, and marine debris removal from the Tinian Harbor, with a total of 68,198 pounds of debris transported for recycling and disposal.

The Adopt a Bin project continues successfully, with nine corporate sponsors for 2022 including Kensington Hotel, D&Q Saipan, Bridge Capital LLC, Marianas Visitors Authority, Brabu Pharmacy, Saipan Computer Services/Ideal Signs, Docomo Pacific, Kanoa Resort, and IT&E. These sponsorships allow the continued collection of the contents of these bins to keep debris from entering Saipan's Lagoon.

Schools for Environmental Conservation is another long-standing program wherein MINA brings technical experts on topics related to the critical connection between land and sea to students at both public and private middle schools, learning through first-hand field experiences the importance of environmental stewardship. This year's program had forty-five participants from eight schools. MINA also included Tinian and Rota students in this year's outreach programs in coordination with the NMC Crees 4-H Program.

The Tasi Watch Community Ranger Program is another of MINA's initiatives for high school graduates and students from NMC who volunteer in field work that gives them invaluable experience in natural resources management. The goal of the program is to develop a passion in the youth as they continue their education and prepare for careers in the environmental field. This year MINA recruited eight new Rangers who have undergone training in field data collection, outreach, and education activities, as well as SCUBA certifications which will allow them to participate in marine debris removal such as roofing tin, and remnants of Typhoon Yutu.

Roofing Tin, Tires and Mixed Debris lifted out of Tinian Harbor by MINA's Team

mina
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
*Empowering Communities for Conservation*
P.O. Box 506645, Gualo Rai Center Ste #103, Saipan MP 96950
(670)233-7333

On August 12, 2022, COTA conducted its Annual Professional Development Training and Employee Recognition.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: On November 8, 2021, Ms. Ginger Porter conducted the Passenger Assistance Safety and Sensitivity training as required by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA). A total of 23 employees have been PASS certified.

COTA held its first proclamation signing on July 14 2022 proclaiming July as CNMI Public Transportation Month.

On August 11, 2022, COTA team members successfully completed the Adult and Children CPR training conducted by Wave and Water Park Safety Academy.

COTA's Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility officially opened its doors to the public on August 25, 2022.

# COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY

## DRIVING YOU FORWARD

COTA's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for its New Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility on August 08, 2022.

From March 2020-April 2022, COTA has actively supported the COVID-19 Task Force transporting a total of 32,922 individuals in its efforts to safeguard our CNMI community.

COTA's Quality Assurance/ Quality Control (QA/QC) Driver's Program is an internal training modeled after the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) that consists of multiple modules that every transit operator must undergo and pass before safely driving around passengers in the CNMI community.

COTA assisted with the transportation needs for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

COTA team members along with the Special Assistant for Public Transportation participated in the 2022 "We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes" motorcade.

COTA continues its efforts at keeping our community informed about the transportation services offered through participating in outreach and awareness events throughout the year.

**Tinian & Rota:** COTA provided one (1) brand new ADA accessible van for each island to assist with the transportation needs for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and the general public.

On August 18, 2022, Special Assistant for Public Transportation met with US Department of Transportation: Federal Transit Administration's Administrator Ms. Nuria Fernandez in Washington D.C. to discuss COTA's success with the new building, plans for an inter-island ferry system, and the arrival of 10 buses to launch the fixed route system on Saipan.

In support of PSS's Cooperative Education Program (CO-OP), COTA presented three hundred (300) student passes for the participating students to avail of from their place of employment and to their residences.

ON June 2022, COTA assisted the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs (CBMA) with the transportation needs of the U.S. Army's 445th Medical Detachment Vetinary Services.

On October 23, 2021, Mr. Carl Haddon and Mr. Aaron Heller from On Scene Training Association, LLC., conducted the Incident Command System (ICS) 300 and 400.

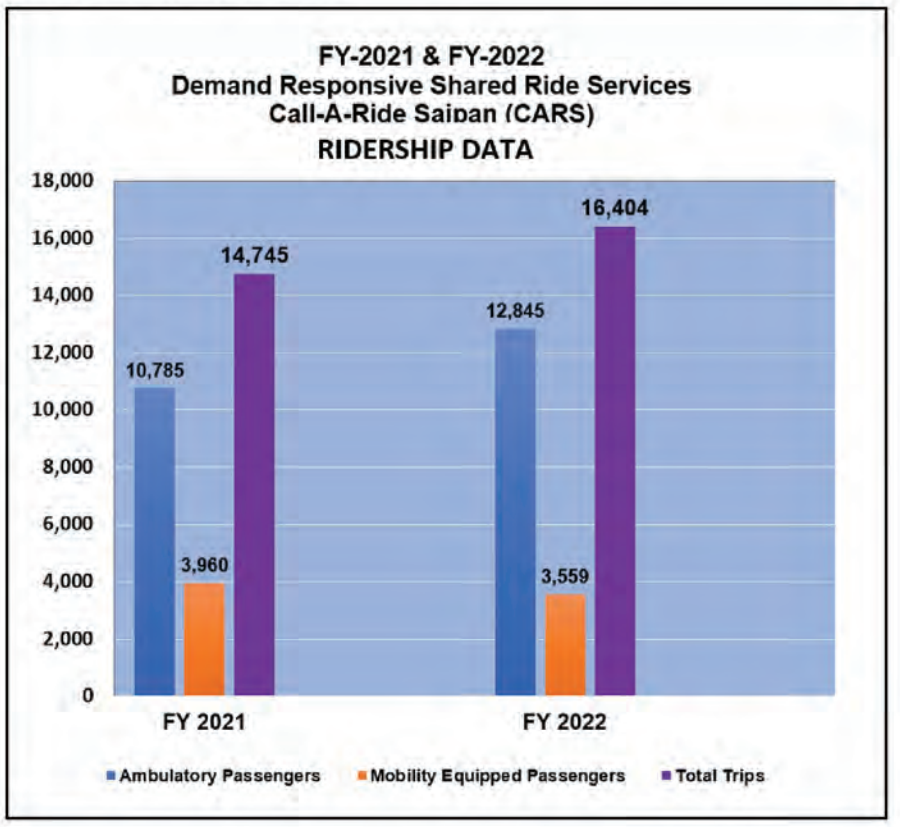
COTA has actively incorporated a "work/health" work culture by going on walks, playing a game of basketball, joining a Zumba or yoga class to encourage a healthy balance for every COTA team member.

COTA participated in the Governor's Summer Youth Program and had the opportunity to give (3) high school students first hand experience on what it's like to be a transit professional.

COTA's CNMI Public Transportation Month Roadside Waving

# FISCAL YEAR 2022 — SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL

COTA's Call-A-Ride Saipan (CARS) Demand Responsive Shared Ride Service had a significant increase of 11.1% in ridership with a total of Sixteen thousand four hundred and four (16,404) trips.

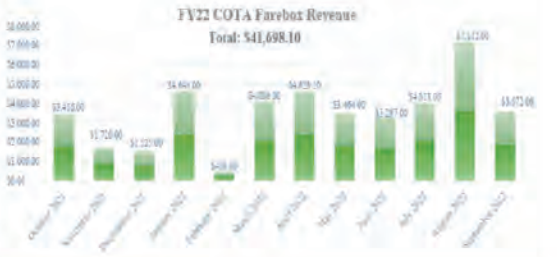



## GRANTS

| | Competitive Grants | Award Amount: |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | CNMI Public Transit System Expansion | $6,387,346.00 |
| 2 | Emergency Relief Grant | $351,000.00 |
| 3 | COVID-19 Research Planning Grant | $300,000.00 |
| 4 | Low or No Emission Electric Bus | $2,373,645.00 |
| 5 | Ferry Feasibility Study and Transportation Master Plan | $800,000.00 |
| | TOTAL: | $10,211,991.00 |

## FINANCE SECTION

For FY2022, COTA collected a total of **$41,698.10** in Farebox Revenue which is a decrease of **7%** from the revenue collected in FY2021 due to the increase of student ridership in the amount of **$1.00** per trip.




Revenue collected from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 – **$ 45,130.50**

# UPCOMING PROJECTS

## FERRY FEASIBILITY STUDY

COTA along with the CPA and US DOT officials visited the island of Tinian and Rota to discuss transportation improvements and conducting an inter-island ferry system.

COTA was awarded $800,000.00 through U.S. Department of Transportation — Federal Transit Administration's (FTA): Areas of Persistent Poverty Program to conduct an independent ferry feasibility study for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

## BUS TRANSFER STATION

COTA is planning for the construction of bus transfer stations at the following locations: Northern Marianas College, Kagman Mobil Station, and Paseo De Marianas.

## LAUNCH OF COTA'S FIXED-ROUTE SERVICE

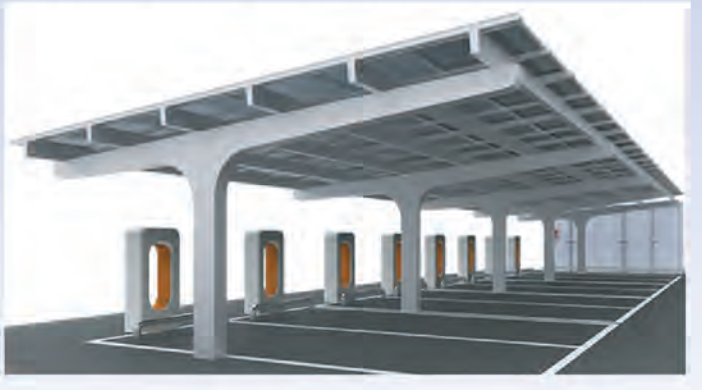
COTA is currently preparing for the launch of its Fixed Route Service on the island of Saipan as we will be receiving a total of ten (10) ADA Accessible buses to support this service.

## BUS SHELTERS

COTA is preparing for Bus Shelters as it plays a crucial role in safeguarding our community from natural causes, such as rain, wind, and the heat.

## SOLAR COVERED PARKING GARAGE

COTA is currently seeking for more federal assistance to construct the solar covered parking garage at the Administrative Building and Maintenance Facility.



## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

COTA was awarded $2,373,645.00 through the U.S. Department of Transportation — Federal Transit Administration's (FTA): Low or No Emission Grant Program for the acquisition of electric vehicles for the CNMI. We are currently working on the solicitation of electric vehicles this fiscal year

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Founded 1947 Autonomy Jan. 11, 1978

Infinite Campus

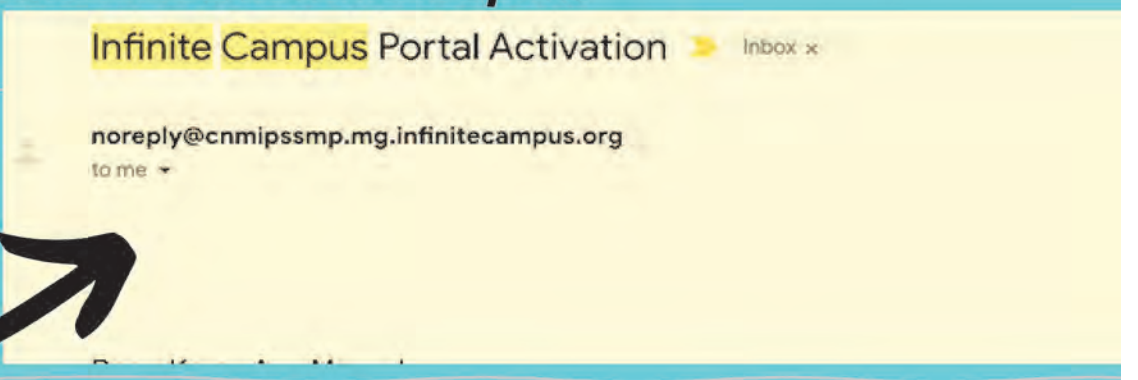
Campus Parent

# HOW TO CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

***Congratulations Parent/Guardian! You now have access to Infinite Campus Parent Portal! Here are the next steps...***

**After completing the online registration, you will receive an email from noreply@cnmipssmp.mg.infinitecampus.org:**

**INFINITE CAMPUS PORTAL ACTIVATION**


Infinite Campus Portal Activation Inbox ×

noreply@cnmipssmp.mg.infinitecampus.org
to me

## CLICK on the URL link. Copy & paste the Portal Activation Key

Please use your Portal Activation Key(s) and Parent Portal URL Link below to create your Parent Portal Account. This account will enable you to see information about your student and the school.

The URL to access your account creation is:

<https://cnmipss.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/nmi.jsp

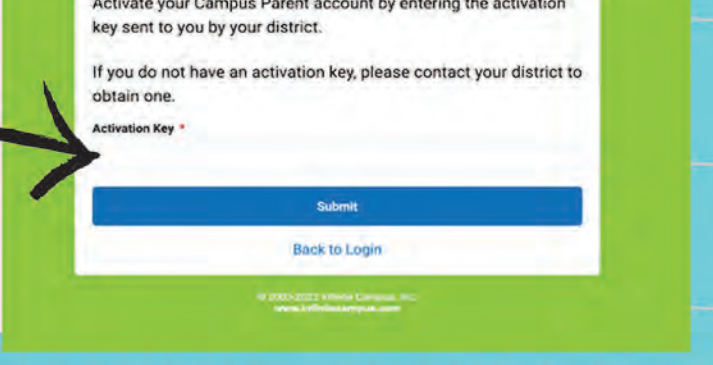
This website will ask for a portal activation key. You can use the keys below to fulfill this requirement.

**Portal Activation Key(s)**

[redacted] Portal Activation Key: 4B4BAD91-EDBC-42EB-AA07-D45[redacted]

Application Number: [redacted]

Thank you very much for completing the PSS Online Registration application.


Infinite Campus simple || powerful

New User?

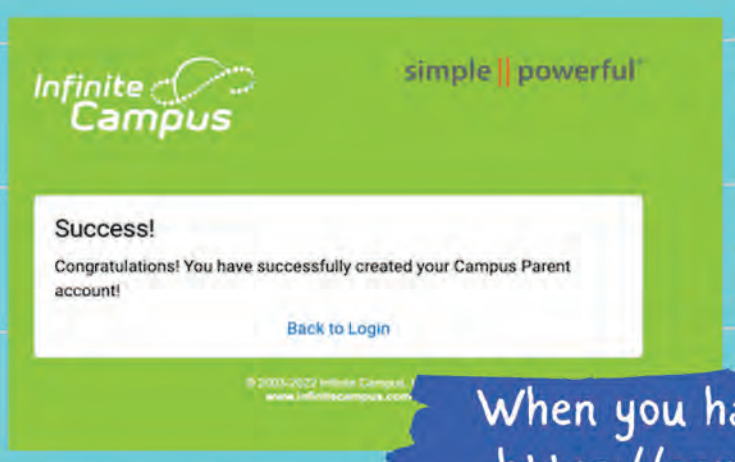
Activate your Campus Parent account by entering the activation key sent to you by your district.

If you do not have an activation key, please contact your district to obtain one.

Activation Key *

Submit

Back to Login


Infinite Campus simple || powerful

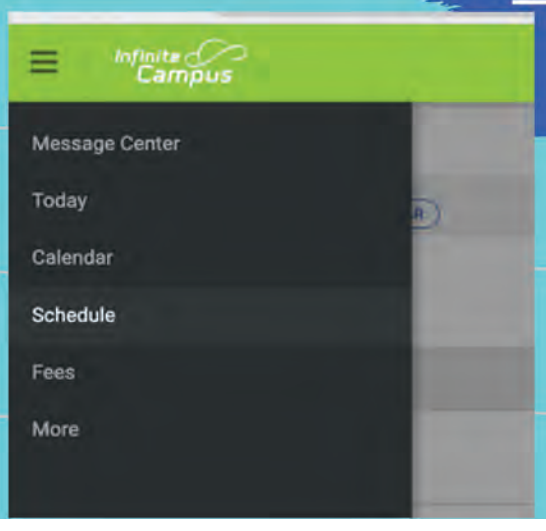
Success!

Congratulations! You have successfully created your Campus Parent account!

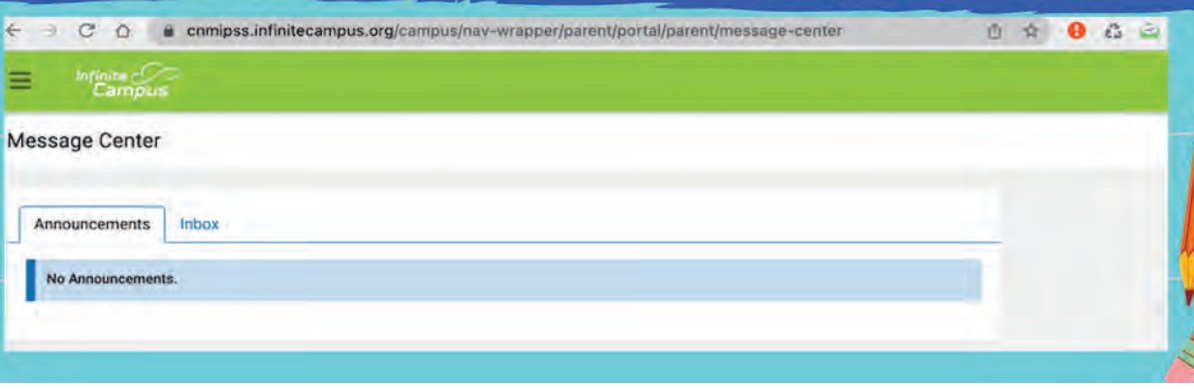
Back to Login

**Once you click Submit, a new tab will open to create your account.**
**Follow the instructions and type in your information as requested.**
**Choose a username and password that you will remember.**

When you have finished the process, log into
https://cnmipss.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/nmi.jsp
and start exploring the features of Infinite Campus Parent Portal


Infinite Campus

Message Center
Today
Calendar
Schedule
Fees
More


cnmipss.infinitecampus.org/campus/nav-wrapper/parent/portal/parent/message-center

Infinite Campus

Message Center

Announcements Inbox

No Announcements.

# Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
## 1178 Hinemlu' St. Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

*Together, We Are Working Toward A Healthier Community*

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) provides sustainable, innovative, equitable, and comprehensive culturally responsive services to achieve accessible, high-quality, patient-centered wellness outcomes for all people in the CNMI.

Providing quality comprehensive health services and promoting healthy environments for a resilient community.

CHCC is committed to exceed standards by providing a culture of compassionate, effective, quality care, honoring the dignity of its stakeholders and community, and promoting equity and transparency as well as continued accountability and growth throughout the corporation.

- The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) recently implanted the first internal heart monitors in the CNMI. The CHCC surgery team successfully implanted six (6) implantable loop recorders, a heart monitoring system that records heart rhythm.

- The CNMI Consortium comprises CNMI State, Health, Education, Faith-based, and Community leaders and organizations committed to addressing substance use disorder/opioid use disorder (SUD/OUD) in the Commonwealth.
- Consortium Leadership and Members commit to address the findings of the 2021 SUD/OUD CNMI Needs Assessment and develop core activities that ultimately make a collective impact on substance use/misuse in the CNMI through five committees.

- The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) introduces its new Mobile Clinic for the residents of Saipan, ready to offer services such as well-child check-ups; well-woman check-ups; adult routine check-ups; family planning services; HIV/STD testing and counseling; vaccinations; population health services including mental health services; and referrals to other health, financial, and social services.
- 90% of population 6 months and up have at least 1 dose of COVID-19 vaccine 60% of booster eligible have received at least 1 booster dose

- **Rota Health Center:** New Primary Care Providers – Dr. Kiernan and Matthew, PA
- Rotating ER PAs (Urgent Care and Emergencies)
- Equipment/Technology upgrades – Refrigerators and freezers, Ultrasound machine, Telepharmacy (including POS), oxygen refiller machine, PT equipment, Computers, and Air purifiers.

- Biofire testing, such as meningitis/encephalitis panel, respiratory panel, pneumonia panel, gastrointestinal panel, and blood culture identification panel.

- **Medical Referral:** Ensured patient's primary and/or secondary insurances are utilized so that the patient is not burdened with the full cost.
- Established relationships with receiving providers to strengthen and accept CNMI Medicaid to expand access to care.
  - Guam Memorial Hospital Authority signed a Medicaid contract around May/June 2022. (Previously they did not accept CNMI Medicaid patients).
  - Access Medical Transport (Guam) has submitted a Medicaid application and is pending review.
- Set up a pharmacy process in California to ensure Medicaid beneficiaries can have access to their medications.
  - Initiated discussions with Guam Mega Drug who is willing to find a reasonable solution to help meet the needs of this population group (pending Medicaid contract).

- $2.8m + issued in food benefits to eligible pregnant women and families with children under 5 years old
  - Average of 2,950 program participants
- Over 1,700 Home Visits conducted for enrolled participants made up of pregnant women or families with children under 5 years old
- 1,391 individual patients served thru the Family Planning program
  - 72% of those served reported to have incomes below the poverty level
- Streamlined environmental and infectious disease notifications and investigations, and initiated steps to develop a digital database to store and manage information/data
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned from 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to the three digit 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as of July 16, 2022.
- The 988 Program is currently working with Lifeline for CNMI services that will include 24-hour Lifeline access - 7 days a week and a Mobile Crisis Team.

- CHCC and the VA Medical Center – VA Pacific Island Health Care signed an MOA making **Tinian Health Center** an ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth Through Local Area Stations) site.

- The newly created Cancer and Associated Risks Early Screening, or CARES, Project aims to screen for, and prevent common cancers. Persons who chew betelnut, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol, or have a history of cancer in their family are at a higher risk of developing cancer. The project provided no-cost cancer prevention counseling and vaccines, as well as screening advice and testing, with follow-up sessions to discuss the results. The program is available to all people who live in the CNMI, from teens on up, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, or citizenship

- Acquired RamSoft a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS). The innovative medical imaging software helps healthcare providers work efficiently and deliver quality patient care.

*From Page 25*

**Name: Sylvio S. Ada**
**Years of Service:** 28 years
**Position:** Supervisor, juvenile Probation, Division of Youth Services

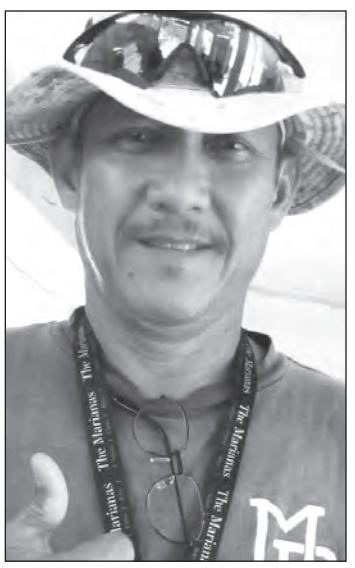
"The greatest satisfaction I get from my job is knowing that by the end of my working day, my daily task or goals as a Juvenile Probation Supervisor is accomplished. In addition to ensuring my staff and I continue to change the lives and future of our youth by following no other than our DYS' mission and that's "Strengthening families to promote the well-being of children, youths and families" and Vision: "All families in the CNMI will be self-sufficient and self-reliant"

**Name: Elizabeth A. Furey**
**Years of service:** 9 years (January 2013 to the present)

**Position:** Executive director, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

"I feel that the best affirmation of the work that MINA does is to see the engagement of our youth in environmental stewardship and how they embrace the realization that their actions today affect the future of the sustainability of the natural resources of the land and sea that we call home."

**Name: Alfred L. Maratita**
**Position:** Trades Technician, Marianas Visitors Authority
**Years of service:** 32 years



**"**The greatest satisfaction I get from working here at Marianas Visitors Authority is I get to be a part of a great agency and help make a difference in today's economy. because tourism is everyone's business.

**Name: Teisha Helena Camacho Efraim**
**Years of service:** 2 years and 7 months
**Position:** Budget Officer, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs

"The greatest satisfaction of being the budget officer is the fact that I have been entrusted to manage over $12 million in federal resources secured by the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs through competitive grant funding opportunities.

As the budget officer, I've had the opportunity to grow and expand my knowledge in the CNMI government finance system, the intricacies of handling a budget through our established internal bookkeeping system, and in working closely with our partners at the Department of Finance on all of our financial matters.

In addition, I have first-hand knowledge of how critical of an impact the federal resources have on our economy through employment opportunities and with investment of those resources with local businesses to support CBMA's personnel and operational requirements.

I joined CBMA only eight months from its official establishment by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. I am privileged for the opportunity to be part of CBMA's growth and of the progress that we have accomplished over the last short years. I am humbled that I am able to experience and contribute to CBMA's mandate and to be part of the team across the CNMI government that work toward ensuring that our islands and our environment that we enjoy today will equally be enjoyed by our future generation.

I also would like to acknowledge that working with a team that supports each other in the workplace and in social settings has a positive impact on the work environment. We each have our role in contributing to CBMA's mandate and I am honored to be the 'go-to person' for advice and guidance. I am always happy to provide them with assistance and support in the same manner that they extend to me.

I would like to extend my appreciation to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for giving me the opportunity to work at CBMA. The opportunity to engage directly with various service components of the U.S. military has been truly rewarding.

My sincerest gratitude to Special Assistant Glenna Sakisat Palacios. She recognized my potential and she challenged me to step out of my comfort zone in order to grow and expand my limited experience when I first came on board to the vast knowledge that I now hold about CBMA 's entire operation. She has been a source of my motivation to overcome challenges and for inspiring me to take on a greater role in CBMA. I thank her for believing in me and for pushing me to grow with CBMA and to take ownership of the work that I do for the benefit of our people and our Commonwealth."

**Name: Nora V. Borja**
**Years of service:** 27+
**Position:** Deputy Clerk of Court; former Judicial Assistant for the late Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan

**"**My greatest satisfaction I get from my job is that I am very fortunate to come to work every day and be with awesome co-workers that work as a team and having the best judicial management and leaders as our boss."

Name: **Patrick V. Diaz**
**Years of service:** 25 years on Nov. 17, 2022

**Position:** Clerk of the Superior Court

"[The greatest satisfaction I get from my job is that] I am always looking forward to work with the best co-workers to ensure that access to the court system is always available to the people of the CNMI and knowing that every day, you at least helped someone navigate through the system."

**Name: Rosie Jane T. Ada**
**Years of service**: 27 years and 9 months (Since Jan. 30, 1995)
**Position**: Deputy Clerk II

"The greatest satisfaction from my job is knowing that I complete my task every day and come tomorrow to face another challenge. But most of all, I love to end my day's work with a smile..."

**Name: Irene T. San Nicolas**
**Years of service:** 27 years and 6 months
**Position:** Chamber Administrator, CNMI Judiciary

"The greatest satisfaction I get from working at the NMI Judiciary - Supreme Court is that I have been blessed all these years to work with wonderful, hardworking staff, management leaders, and the greatest bosses (Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro; Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos). It's all about teamwork!"

**Name: Francisca Chong Ulloa**
**Position**: Counseling Program Coordinator, Office of Curriculum and Instruction: Mentoring Program, Homeschool Program, Junior Achievement Program, Family Engagement and Community Involvement, Counseling Program
**Years in service**: 35 years, 8 months with PSS. Started in September 1986. Had a break between April 1989-July 1989

"[My greatest satisfaction is] making an impact and difference in a student's life."

# MVA wins PATA global destination resilience award

The Marianas Visitors Authority was named last Friday as the global recipient of 2022 Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Award for Tourism Destination Resilience.

The award announcement was made as part of the PATA Gold Awards 2022 ceremony recognizing the best in marketing, creativity and innovation tailored for the Asia Pacific region and beyond. The MVA's nomination highlighted the CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan and travel bubble with South Korea.

MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo said the Marianas' resiliency in kickstarting its tourism recovery even at the height of the pandemic was a model for other destinations in terms of public health prioritization, interagency cooperation, rapid responsiveness, and community support.

"There was no playbook for the impact of the coronavirus on our islands, not to mention the entire world," said Iakopo. "But through our togetherness here in the Marianas, we were able to control the number of COVID cases by following the 3Ws and getting vaccinated. I want to thank the government agencies, most especially the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force, our non-profit organizations, the community, and most especially, MVA staff, including MVA Korea for their endless contributions in ensuring the MVA continued to carry out our duties and responsibilities, and that's tourism."

The awards are made annually in the categories of Marketing and Sustainability & Social Responsibility. The 2022 PATA Gold Awards, open to members and non-members of the Association, attracted a total of 136 entries from 56 travel and tourism organizations and individuals. A total of 25 Gold Awards and two Grand Awards were also presented online to the winning entries in various categories.

"This is huge for the Marianas," said Iakopo. "We competed with other larger destinations, other beach destinations that have millions of visitors. This demonstrates the excellency of the MVA and, most especially, the great things that can be accomplished when the Marianas unites toward a common goal."

The MVA's "Official Marianas Guide" tour guide certification program was awarded a 2018 PATA Gold Award. The PATA Gold Awards are sponsored by the Macao Government Tourism Office. ***(MVA)***

# CCDF - CNMI Brain Builders hold café sessions with parents

Throughout the month of September 2022, the CNMI Brain Builders Team completed a series of café sessions focusing on the parents and families of children enrolled in Child Care Centers, including Tinian.

The purpose of the café sessions is to give parents and families the opportunity to learn about the importance of the first five years of life and strategies for supporting their children's development at this young age. Emphasis was focused on parents' crucial role as their children's first teachers and how they can use everyday moments to build their children's brains.

The CNMI Brain Builders Team, along with the Child Care Development Fund and Evergreen Learning, wish to extend their appreciation to the staff and leadership of the Child Care Centers for their assistance and collaboration in making these café sessions a success. ***(PR)***

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 501055 Saipan MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 | Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: https://cnmiports.com

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2022

**Opening date:** October 06, 2022 **Closing date:** October 27, 2022

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Location:** SAIPAN | | SALARY |
| **Positions:** | (1) ARFF General Maintenance | PL 3/1 to 3/12 ($8.01/hr. to $13.70/hr.) |
| | (1) ARFF Mechanic II | PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr. to $15.85/hr.) |
| | (1) Custodial I | PL 1/1 to 1/12 ($7.26/hr. to $12.42/hr.) |
| | (1) AOA Controller-I | PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr. to $15.10/hr.) |
| **Location:** ROTA | | SALARY |
| | (3) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee | PL 5/1 ($8.83/hr.) |
| **Location:** TINIAN | | SALARY |
| **Positions:** | (2) General Maintenance I | PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr. to $13.04/hr.) |

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 27, 2022**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
EMAIL: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

### Request for Proposals for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2022-01

**Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport**
**"Car Rental Concession"**
**CPA-RFP-011-22**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of eighteen (18) months (contract to end on 05/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-011-22 is **October 12, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on November 22, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of $100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

**/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**DEVELOPMENT OF ECHO DOCK**
**PORT OF SAIPAN**
**CPA RFP NO. CPA-RFP-010-2022**
**(CPA CONCESSION NO. SEA 2022-01)**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("Authority") is inviting qualified developers and their development teams to submit sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for the development of Echo Dock, which is situated north of the Port of Saipan. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone. This RFP is being issued pursuant to NMIAC § 40-70-205.

The RFP Package is available beginning Wednesday, August 31, 2022, at the Authority's Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of a non-refundable administrative fee of $200.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check, or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Other than this administrative fee, proposers are not required to submit a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Authority will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 16, 2022, to explain the Authority's development objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held at the Authority's Seaport Conference Room, George Fleming Building. All potential applicants are encouraged to attend but it is not mandatory.

All proposers are requested to pay attention to the following significant dates and times:

| | |
|---|---|
| Date RFP Package becomes available | August 31, 2022 (8:00 AM) |
| Date of RFP briefing meeting | September 16, 2022 (10:00 AM) |
| Deadline to submit Notice of Intent | September 28, 2022 (4:00 PM) |
| Deadline to submit Statement of Qualifications | October 13, 2022 (4:00 PM) |
| Notification of qualified applicants of the RFP | October 28, 2022 |
| Deadline for RFP submission | November 30, 2022 (4:00 PM) |

Qualified proposers shall submit their sealed proposals to the "CPA Evaluation Committee" and mark the outside cover of its submittal as follows: "RFP Proposal: Confidential - Development of the Echo Dock, Saipan (RFP-010-2022)." Five (5) hard copies and one electronic copy on CD, DVD, or flash drive of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. CHST, Wednesday, November 30, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened. The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

**FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:**

**/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date 8/26/2022

## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

### INVITATION FOR BID

**PROJECT NO.: CPA-IFB-001-23**
**BIDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 24, TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**PROCUREMENT OF ONE (1) UNIT TRACTOR & MOWER FOR THE BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

THE BID PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDES THE EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS AND OTHER CONSIDERATION IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 AT THE CPA ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DEPARTURE BUILDING UPON PAYMENT OF A NON-REFUNDABLE ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES OF THE BIDS TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: **"PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-23".** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020, §40-50-1015, & §40-50-1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, FINANCIAL INTEREST, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

**/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date 9/23/2022

## COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)

PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Friday, October 14, 2022**

**PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022 AT 8:30 A.M.. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**AGENDA**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes – May 11, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. DCD Financial Status
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Deliberation and Board action on legal issue on a property in Rota
  B. Deliberation & Board Action on Loan Matters, as follows:
    1. Martin & Crystal Pangelinan
    2. David Atalig
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

## COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)

PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Friday, October 14, 2022**

**PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022, AT 1:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**AGENDA**

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Adoption of Minutes
    1. August 25, 2022
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative
      a. Board deliberation & action on rear permeable parking project
    2. Loan Matters:
      a. Deliberation & Board action on Frances S. Arriola
      b. Deliberation & Board action on additional loan payment deferment
      c. Deliberation & Board action on legal issue on a property in Rota
      d. Deliberation & Board action on Tito Sablan & the Estate of Elphidia C. Sablan†
      e. Deliberation & Board action on Maria A. & Michael Aguon loan
  B. Comptroller's Report
    1. Financial Report update
  C. Qualifying Certificate Program/Economic Development Activities
    1. Program update
IV. OLD BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. *(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

# Small boats warned of hazardous seas

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today, Friday, in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota coastal waters. This means conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, southwest winds of 15 to 20 knots will be present, with frequent gusts of up to 25 knots.

Maximum wave heights of 8 to 12 feet are likely at times due to the merging of wind waves and swells from the southwest, north, and east.

A small craft advisory means that wind speeds of 15 to 20 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in hazardous conditions. ***(PR)***

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), second from left, and her two staff members, third and fourth from left, deliver school supplies worth $605 to Saipan Southern High School yesterday morning. SSHS vice principal Arisa Sakai Peters, extreme left, receives the donation from the senator.

## NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

## Request for Proposal

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2022.** NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **December 16, 2022.** The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 30, 2022**, and a final audit report shall be completed by **March 17, 2023**. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. Gregory Borja, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## INVITATION FOR BIDS
## CUC-IFB-23-002

### Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the installation of sewer manholes.

*The project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from ARPA.*

CUC requires the project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-002, Sewer Main and Manhole Replacement Project (Beach Road and Chalan Kanoa)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 09, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 21, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Acting Chief Engineer for Water/Wastewater via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Joel Puyat, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY P. CAMACHO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**MANNY B. SABLAN**
PURCHASING ADMINISTRATOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS | OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
## HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM
JUAN A. SABLAN BUILDING | CALLER BOX 10007 | SAIPAN, MP 96950 | 670.664.2417 | INFO@HM.GOV.MP

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FOR
### Engineering and Design-Related Services-
### Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
### Fire Stations 1-Susupe and 5-Kagman Roof Hardening Project
## RFQ23-GOV/DFEMS-42300001

The Office of the Governor, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), through the Governor's Authorized Representative (collectively, "Commonwealth") on behalf of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS), is soliciting sealed proposals for engineering and design-related services for the DFEMS Fire Stations 1-Susupe and 5- Kagman Roof Hardening Project on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Procurement procedures shall comply with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 28, 2001, or the latest revision thereof. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor, and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

Selected architects and engineers will be retained as independent contractors under the general provision of the contracting officer or his designee. Architects and engineers will act as agents of the expenditure authority on assigned projects to ensure that identified objectives are achieved within cost, time, and legal requirements while maintaining effective stakeholder communications.

Interested firms may pick up the scope of work and submittal requirements at the Office of Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or request electronically Colin R. Sablan at crsablan@omb.gov.mp, beginning **October 14, 2022**, during working hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday, except on holidays). Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements.

There will be a pre-proposal meeting on October 27, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., at the Office of Governor, HMGP Office, Juan A. Sablan Building Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions about this project shall be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., in writing by email at esb.cip@gmail.com on or before November 7, 2022.

The selection of individuals for the provision of services shall be guided by the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Procurement Services, Procurement Regulations §7070-30.3-305. To qualify for the project, the firm must have a valid CNMI Business License, be currently licensed to practice engineering in the CNMI, and hold a Certificate of Authorization from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Fee estimates will assist the DFEMS for budgeting purposes but will not be considered in the firm evaluation scores.

Statement of Qualification must be presented by a combination of brochures and the current U.S. Government Standard Form 330 or the latest version of Standard Forms. Only professionally licensed firms with a valid CNMI business license will be considered. Statement of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Qualification of the personnel in the firm | 30% |
| 2. Experiences on similar projects in the Pacific Area | 30% |
| 3. Project Approach including a timeline | 30% |
| 4. Work Load | 10% |
| 5. Fee proposal | 0% |

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms or with all the firms. After a selection, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The selected firm will be subject to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The performance time is four (4) months upon notice to proceed.

Proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ23-GOV/DFEMS-42300001 Request for Qualification for Engineering and Design-Related Services DFEMS Fire Stations 1-Susupe and 5-Kagman Roof Hardening Project. Submittal of all qualifications must precisely follow the requirements identified in the scope of work and submittal requirements. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies and a USB containing the electronic copy of the qualifications statements must be submitted to the Director of Procurement Services, 1st Floor Horiguchi Building, Kopa Di Oru Street, Garapan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than 9:30 a.m. ChST, November 23, 2022. Proposers outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a notice of intent to propose. The Director of Procurement Services must receive notice of intent to propose no later than 9:30 a.m. ChST, November 23, 2022, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to bidintent@dof.gov.mp. For proposers outside the CNMI, one original and two (2) copies and a USB containing the electronic copy of the qualifications statement must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than November 23, 2022. The Director of Procurement Services must receive them by December 2, 2022. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be a cause for rejection of a bid.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfections in any bid if, in its opinion, doing so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

Patrick C. Guerrero
Governor's Authorized Representative

Francisco C. Aguon
Acting Director, Procurement Services

# $440K awarded to CEDA for Tinian cattle feasibility study

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority received $440,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration to study the feasibility of the cattle industry on Tinian. In photo from left are Tinian rancher Ike Kiyoshi, Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Mayor of Tinian staffer Carl Lou Espinosa, Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services interim dean Patricia Coleman, CEDA loan manager Marie Coleman, Tinian Municipal Council chair Joseph Santos, Sen. Francisco Cruz, CEDA board member Jocelyn King, CNMI Small Business Development Center director/ advisor Benjamin Borja, Tinian Cattlemen's Association vice president and NMC-CREES employee Sam Palacios, Tinian Cattlemen's Association president Jose Dela Cruz, Senate President Jude Hofschneider, Department of Public Lands director Bernie San Nicolas, NMC Tinian Center executive director Maria H. Aguon, Rep. Patrick San Nicolas, and DPL board member Melanie Cruz.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has awarded the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority $440,000 to study the growth and feasibility of creating a Tinian beef cattle industry and to provide technical support to the local ranchers of the Tinian Cattlemen's Association.

CEDA said the project aims to create a comprehensive inventory of cattle resources on Tinian, provide training workshops to the community, and identify business opportunities and potential markets.

According to Tinian Cattlemen's Association president Jose Dela Cruz, this will open up new opportunities for the cattle industry and that this is "a cause for celebration."

"I am very excited for this project to start," Dela Cruz said. "The feasibility study that will be conducted will be very thorough and will help us with all the facets of this industry and our slaughterhouse."

The Tinian slaughterhouse or Tinian Kualidat Meat Processing Center is run by the Municipality of Tinian and the Tinian Cattlemen's Association. The center opened last year on Aug. 13, 2021.

CEDA executive director Manuel Sablan said in a statement to the media, "We are thankful to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for awarding us these much needed funds to help our Tinian ranchers and revitalize our beef industry. …This project is a milestone for the people of Tinian and the CNMI."

CEDA stated that the benefits from this project include a diversified economy, enhanced food security, and increased product profitability.

This project supports workforce education through Industry-focused technical assistance, which will lead to skills training activities. The direct connection to existing resources will lead to competitive and quality jobs, with an estimate of 14 jobs to be created or retained as a direct outcome of this project.

Since much of the current workforce is composed of cattle ranchers, Tinian's beef industry aims to retain those jobs and expand opportunities that support various segments of beef cattle production such as feedlot production, ranchers or ranch hands, logistics and transportation, meat processing and operations, certified health and safety inspectors, sales and marketing, waste and offal removal services, and more.

In a statement to the media, CNMI Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said this is a momentous occasion for Tinian.

"It has always been the dream of the Tinian community over the last 10-15 years to reestablish the beef industry on the island," Hofschneider said. "We hope that this grant will jumpstart other opportunities and to help us drive our food security initiatives that the Tinian leadership has been pushing for. We are very concerned about this—we want to make sure our food supply is secure when the next disaster or pandemic strikes."

CEDA will be working directly with the Municipality of Tinian and the Tinian Cattlemen's Association on this project.

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services program will be providing technical assistance for the duration of the project.

# UOG joins initiative to close student equity gaps

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A cultural performance is featured during a University of Guam celebration.

The University of Guam is among nearly two dozen colleges and universities across the nation recently selected to participate in an initiative—funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—to help the institutions close equity gaps for low-income, indigenous, Black, and Latinx students.

The Student Success Equity Initiative will enable UOG and other institutions under the American Association of State Colleges and Universities umbrella to work collectively on student success, learn from one another with support from AASCU and from subject matter experts, and access tools and strategies through engagement in the association's networks, according to AASCU.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is funding the AASCU to administer the initiative as part of a broader grant.

"UOG's selection to participate in this initiative will help validate our efforts to further support the needs of our students from Guam and the rest of the Western Pacific who face additional hurdles as members of low-income households and as children of families that may be seeing their first-generation of students aspiring to complete college for the first time," said Lawrence F. Camacho, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Success.

"In this complex and rapidly changing world, we aim to foster an inclusive and secure environment that is grounded on the CHamoru and Micronesian values of respect, compassion, and community," Camacho said.

Though the initiative does not provide direct funding to UOG, the value of participation comes from the coaching, networking, and other resources and services that will help the university develop and implement equity-driven student success strategies, Camacho said.

Jacquelyn R. Jones, assistant vice president of student success, with AASCU's Academic Innovation & Transformation, wrote: "Our hope is that over the next two to three years, you and other campuses in this project will achieve equitable student success, reflect on what factors contributed to your success, and disseminate promising practices to the rest of higher education."

"Congratulations again on this significant honor. We know this will be an extraordinary opportunity to engage many people on your campus, connecting them to the very best work in student success in the country. This project will transform the lives of thousands of college students across the United States, and we look forward to collaborating with you," Jones added in the letter to UOG.

Other institutions selected for the initiative include California State University, Stanislaus; Fort Lewis College; Georgia College & State University; Lehman College; The City University of New York; Middle Tennessee State University; Nevada State College; Portland State University; Sam Houston State University; Tarleton State University, Texas; Texas A&M University; Texas A&M University, Texarkana; University of North Georgia; University of Washington, Bothell; West Texas A&M University; and Western Kentucky University. ***(UOG)***

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Joseph Frank Pickelsimer III

June 24, 1946 – September 29, 2022

"He Will swallow up death forever, And the Sovereign Lord Jehovah will wipe away tears from all faces."
-Isaiah 25:8

**Family**
He will be missed and forever be in the heart of his,
**Wife:** Annie Terlaje Pickelsimer

**Son:** Frank Joseph Pickelsimer III
**Granddaughters:** Katie and Pua
**Siblings:** Larry and Deborah Marriot Pickelsimer
Carol and Jose Anderson Santos
Donna Pickelsimer

Number of brothers (4) and number of sisters (3) who have preceded him in death.

**Sisters and Brothers-in-law:**
†Vicente and Maria Lizama Terlaje
Jose and Elizabeth Quitugua Terlaje
†Maria Terlaje Palacios
†Rita Camacho Terlaje
Magdalena and Mark Hazen
†Antonia and Donald Woodworth
†Rosita Terlaje Pangelinan
Helen Castro Sablan

**Funeral Details**
Date: Saturday, October 15, 2022
Location: Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Middle Road Gualo Rai, Kulales Pl
Funeral Discourse: 10:00 AM

*Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase from the Family*

# Off The Wall

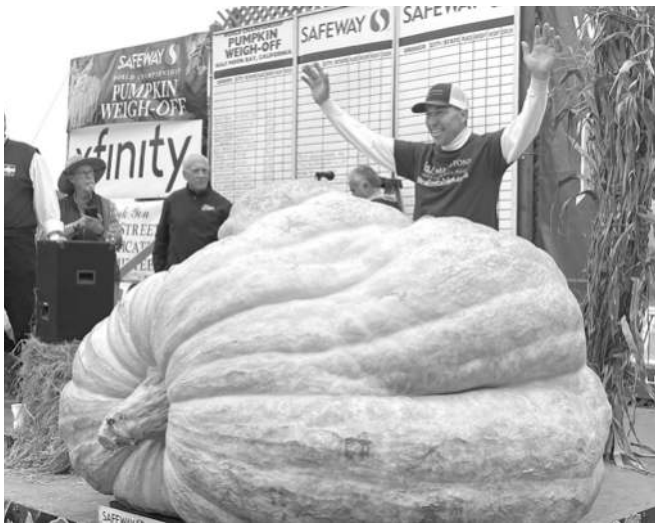
## 2,560-pound pumpkin wins Calif. contest; sets a record

**HALF MOON BAY, Calif.** (AP)—A horticulture teacher from Minnesota set a new U.S. record Monday for the heaviest pumpkin after raising a giant gourd weighing 2,560 pounds.

Travis Gienger, of Anoka, Minnesota set the new record and won an annual pumpkin-weighing contest in Northern California.

"Minnesota has a great midyear, but our spring in our parts is really, really tough. So to do it in Minnesota, it just shouldn't happen," Gienger said. "It's like winning the Tour de France on a big wheel. You know, you can only hope, but it worked."

Gienger drove the gargantuan gourd for 35 hours to see his hard work pay off at the 49th World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco.




AP

Travis Gienger from Anoka, Minn., stands behind his winning pumpkin at the 49th World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off in Half Moon Bay, Calif., Monday, Oct. 10, 2022.

"You think driving in a snowstorm is bad? Try driving one of these things," he said.

Gienger, who also won the same contest in Northern California in 2020, broke a record set last week in New York where a grower raised a massive pumpkin weighing 2,554 pounds.

A grower in Italy holds the world record for the heaviest pumpkin. He grew a 2,702-pound squash in 2021, according to Guinness World Records.

## Man charged with smuggling pythons in his pants at US border

**ALBANY, N.Y.** (AP)—A New York City man has been charged with smuggling three Burmese pythons in his pants at a U.S-Canadian border crossing.

Calvin Bautista, 36, is accused of bringing the hidden snakes on a bus that crossed into northern New York on July 15, 2018. Importation of Burmese pythons is regulated by an international treaty and by federal regulations listing them as "injurious to human beings."

Bautista, of Queens, was arraigned Tuesday in Albany on the federal smuggling charge and released pending trial, according to a news release from the office of U.S. Attorney Carla B. Freedman.

An email seeking comment was sent to Bautista's lawyer.

The charge carries the potential for a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine as high as $250,000, according to federal prosecutors.

The Burmese python, one of the world's largest snakes, is considered a vulnerable species in its native Asia and is invasive in Florida, where it threatens native animals.

## Guilty! Law school sends out erroneous admissions emails

**BOSTON** (AP)—A Massachusetts law school says it's guilty of accidentally sending acceptance emails to thousands of former and current applicants.

The Northeastern University School of Law in a statement Wednesday blamed a "technical error" for the glitch, saying the erroneous emails went to more than 200 people who applied for admission starting next fall, as well as to nearly 4,000 former applicants, some of whom are already enrolled.

"The School of Law quickly sent a clarifying email explaining the error. Individual outreach is also taking place to applicants with concerns," the Boston school said.

Final admissions decisions will not be made until later in the academic year.

"The School of Law deeply regrets this unintended mistake and is taking steps to ensure that it will not happen in the future," the school said.

Lakisha Papoutsakis, a single mother from Northborough, Massachusetts, who received the acceptance email, told NBC10 Boston that she has dreamed of going to law school since she was a child.

She shared the good news with her loved ones before noticing the follow-up email.

"I was like, 'Oh my God this is so amazing,' and then it was like, 'Oh no, sorry, April Fool's Day,'" she said.

This fall's law school class has 234 members out of 3,877 applicants, according to Northeastern's website.

## College photos, memorabilia of Elon Musk auctioned for $165K

**BOSTON** (AP)—College photos of Tesla CEO Elon Musk and memorabilia from his girlfriend at the time sold for $165,000 at auction, a Boston auction house said Thursday.

Boston-based RR Auction said it was a collection of never-before-seen photos and memorabilia from Musk's college girlfriend, Jennifer Gwynne.

Musk changed his Twitter profile to one of the photos Wednesday. He's currently in a public fight with Twitter to try to get out of a $44 billion deal to buy the social media company, with a high-stakes October trial over the dispute looming.

Gwynne told The Boston Globe she read about an auction of test papers that Musk graded and realized she had far more personal items she could sell, including candid photos, a birthday card from him and a necklace he gave her.

Musk and Gwynne dated from 1994 to 1995 when they were both at the University of Pennsylvania. They split when Musk graduated, moved to California and said he couldn't talk on the phone because it seemed like a waste of time to him, Gwynne said.

"We broke up just before he started conquering the world," Gwynne said.

# Science & Technology

## Amazon unveils bedside tool that tracks sleeping patterns

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Soon enough, a bedside Amazon device might know whether you're sleeping—or not.

The e-commerce and tech giant said Wednesday it will start selling a device later this year that can track sleeping patterns without a wristband.

The device, called Halo Rise, will use no-contact sensors and artificial intelligence to measure a user's movement and breathing patterns, allowing the device to track sleep stages during the night, the Seattle-based company said. Amazon said the device "does not include cameras or microphones," and will go for $139.99.

The Halo Rise would be the latest device in Amazon's Halo line, which includes a fitness tracker that can track physical activity and sleeping patterns. Amazon noted the device can connect with its virtual assistant, Alexa, and allow users to wake up to their favorite songs, and a light that "simulates the colors and gradual brightening of a sunrise."

AP

This image provided by Amazon shows the Halo Rise bedside smart alarm.

The new device highlights the company's ever-growing move to integrate its technology in consumers' lives, and broaden its reach into wellness. Its healthcare ambitions have grown over the years, seen most recently in its planned $3.9 billion acquisition of the primary care organization One Medical. The deal is currently under review by the Federal Trade Commission.

Amazon, which has faced scrutiny over its handling of consumer data, quickly offered assurances on Wednesday that the information in the Halo Rise device will be kept safe—saying the "health data is encrypted in transit and at rest in the cloud."

"Amazon Halo health data is not used for marketing, product recommendations, or advertising, and never sold," the company said.

Separately, Amazon said it will release a new Kindle Scribe, the first Kindle consumers can write on. It will also add more features to its Ring doorbell cameras, home robot Astro, and release new Echo devices.

Science Matters
Humans' mark on Earth: Nearly zero
Humans ecological damage has been called the Anthropocene, a mass extinction event. But in geologic history, humans have scarcely existed, and in millions of years, we will disappear with almost no trace.
A sliver of the geological record
The 6,000-foot (1,800 m) walls of Arizona's Grand Canyon contain rock layers that are, at their bottom level, 1.84 billion years old
The 186 million years of the dinosaurs' reign equals 190 m (620 ft.)
Photo by Drenalino
30 cm (1 ft.) of that rock = 300,000 years in geologic history
The 200 years of humans' polluting, industrial history = 0.2 mm – two sheets of paper
Millions of years after human history, geologic forces will crush and erode traces of it into a thin layer of rock and some sediment on the sea floor
Plate subduction: The great destroyer
Erosion, chemical breakdown and earthquakes slowly reshape Earth, leveling mountains, but ...
The powerful geological process that totally erases the surface and will wipe out much of the evidence of humans is plate subduction
Coastal areas especially will be completely gone
1 Huge tectonic plate, sliding across Earth, dives under a more massive plate
Stationary plate
Subducting plate
2 Heat melts rock and materials pulled under
Muddy burial: Key to historical survival
Fossils form most readily when an object is rapidly covered in mud, which compresses into rock. Cities such as Beijing, Dhaka and New Orleans sit on sinking, sedimentary land – fossil-making material.
Source: Paul Brannen, "The Arrogance of the Anthropocene," Atlantic magazine, Aug. 13, 2019; US Geological Survey; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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# Life & Style

## MacArthur's 2022 'genius grant' winners picked to inspire

By THALIA BEATY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A specialist in plastic waste management, artists, musicians, computer scientists, and a poet-ornithologist who advocates for Black people in nature are among this year's 25 winners of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's prestigious fellowships known as "genius grants" that honor discipline-bending and society-changing people whose work offers inspiration and insight.

The Chicago-based foundation announced Wednesday that it increased the "no strings attached" award amount each honoree receives from $625,000 to $800,000 over five years. Fellows do not need to report back to the foundation about how they spend the money.

"I hope that they will continue with their courage and provocation to inspire us to new places of understanding and inspiration," said Marlies Carruth, director of the MacArthur fellows program.

Jenna Jambeck, a professor of environmental engineering at the University of Georgia, received the award for accomplishments like calculating the amount of plastic created since 1950 and identifying that 8 million metric tons of plastic enters oceans each year. She got a call from the foundation after picking up her kids one day in September.

"I was just completely overcome with emotion," Jambeck said in an interview.

Jambeck, 48, has led surveys of the Ganges and Mississippi rivers to establish baseline data on plastic pollution and document the systems that produce the plastic, treat it as garbage and eventually funnel it into the water. The tension and challenge of managing waste captured her attention when she was in college in Gainesville, Florida, and witnessed a prolonged debate about whether to expand a landfill or transfer waste to another county.

AP

This 2022 photo provided by John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation shows J. Drew Lanham, Ornithologist, Naturalist, and Writer, 2022 MacArthur Fellow, in Clemson, S.C.

"I just was hooked because, you know, this is something we create every day. We have to manage it," she said, "Yet everybody wants this material as far away from them as possible."

The foundation selects fellows through a multi-stage process where anonymous reviewers nominate and vet potential candidates, usually over the course of years, with the intent of recognizing people who are exceptionally creative in their work. The fellows are not involved in their selection and receive a phone call out of the blue, Carruth said.

J. Drew Lanham, a professor of forestry and environmental conservation at Clemson University, said the fellowship gives him intellectual and creative liberation. Lanham, 57, is also a poet, an ornithologist, an activist for Black people in nature, the author of a memoir—in other words, a person who defies labels.

"I've even had friends and family and I'm sure colleagues wonder, 'Well, are you really working? What are you doing? How does that have anything to do with ornithology or how does that have anything to do with your being a college professor?'" he said, speaking from Edisto Island, South Carolina.

Among his writings are a 2013 essay "9 Rules for Black Birdwatchers," and a memoir that traces the beginning of his love affair with birds and nature to his childhood on his family's farm in South Carolina, which they lost after his father's death.

## Blake Shelton, last of original 'The Voice' judges, to leave

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Blake Shelton, the last of the original panel of judges on "The Voice," will leave the megahit U.S. version of the singing competition show after next season.

"This show has changed my life in every way for the better and it will always feel like home to me," the country music star said in a statement Tuesday night. He said he had been "wrestling with this for a while."

The next season will be the NBC show's 23rd and Shelton's last. When it premiered in 2011, Shelton was joined in the big red chairs by Adam Levine, Christina Aguilera and CeeLo Green. Celebrity judges like Pharrell, Shakira and Miley Cyrus rotated in and out for subsequent seasons, but Shelton had been the constant (Levine had the second-longest tenure, with 16 seasons ).

"I have to give a huge shoutout to the singers—the 'Voices,' who come on this stage season after season and amaze us with their talent," Shelton said, adding "a special thanks to those who chose me to be their coach."

The show is also where Shelton met his wife, Gwen Stefani. The pop star and "No Doubt" frontwoman joined the show in 2014 for its seventh season and the pair began dating the next year, after Shelton divorced Miranda Lambert and Stefani divorced Gavin Rossdale. Shelton and Stefani wed in July 2021.

"i am so proud of you and so blessed to have found u. your talent brings joy to the hearts of so many people and i am so lucky to be part of ur life's journey," Stefani commented on Shelton's Instagram post announcing his departure.

"The Voice," hosted by Carson Daly, is in the midst of airing its 22nd season. Both Stefani and Shelton are serving as judges, alongside John Legend—in his seventh season on the show—and Camila Cabello.

The Emmy-winning show also announced Tuesday night that Stefani, Legend and Cabello will vacate their seats next season, replaced by Kelly Clarkson—another frequent judge—and first-timers Niall Horan and Chance the Rapper.

## Michelle Obama Award will honor student memoir writers

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A literary honor will now carry the name of a uniquely successful author: the Michelle Obama Award for Memoir.

On Wednesday, Penguin Random House announced the retitling of the prize in its decades-old Creative Writing Awards program, which also includes categories named for Amanda Gorman (poetry) and Maya Angelou (spoken word). Each year, the Obama prize will provide a $10,000 college scholarship to a high school senior in public school, based on an autobiographical English-language composition.

Obama's memoir "Becoming" was published in 2018 and has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, by far the most popular book by a modern White House resident. The former first lady's next book, "The Light We Carry," comes out next month.

"I know firsthand how nerve-wracking it can be to share the most intimate stories from your life with the world," Obama said in a statement released by Penguin Random House.

"But after publishing my memoir 'Becoming,' I've learned that writing your own story can be a powerful tool. When we share the whole of ourselves, we offer others the opportunity to not only see us as we are, but maybe even think about themselves in a new way," she said. "This allows us to harness the things that set us apart and helps us see the world as the nuanced, messy, beautiful place that it is. That's why I am so excited about this new award, and I can't wait to read what this next generation of young writers will share with us all."

## Recovering addict believes past has ruined the present

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in my 60s, single and childless. I was raised by parents who had issues, and I did not have a nurturing childhood. As a result, for decades I had a chaotic life and turned to alcohol and drugs to soothe my emotional pain.

I have been drug-free and sober for many years. Still, I'm troubled when I see how abnormal and dysfunctional my life was and what I have missed that normal people get to enjoy -- like marriage, children and grandchildren. My sadness and loneliness are so overwhelming that some days I don't want to get out of bed. I'm finding it very hard to discover a purpose. Any suggestions?

**WOUNDED IN CALIFORNIA**

**DEAR WOUNDED: You cannot change the past, but you can certainly change the future. The first step should be to consult a licensed mental health professional about your deep depression. With talk therapy and medication, you may finally be able to overcome it. Once you are stable again, your therapist may also work with you to help you decide how to fill those empty spaces in your life. Please don't wait to reach out.**

■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My son graduated from high school and won't make a plan. He doesn't help with anything around the house, won't save money to buy his own car and refuses to share our extra car with his sister. We are in constant conflict. I want him to move out. I want him to be working and saving money if I'm paying for his room and board. He sleeps until noon, works sporadically and spends his limited money on preworkout supplements, shoes and guitars. He's on his phone playing games in his bed most days until late into the night. Advice?

**ENOUGH ALREADY IN VIRGINIA**

**DEAR ENOUGH: Your son isn't making a plan to become independent because you have been such a generous parent, he has no incentive to leave the nest. Quit letting him use the extra car and tell him that unless he starts doing his fair share around the house, finds a full-time job and can prove that he's saving money, you want him OUT of there. Then give him a deadline, and if he hasn't shown improvement by then, follow through. Sometimes a dose of tough love is what it takes to get a message across.**

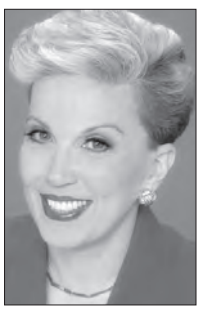
■■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I have been married for 17 years and live in an older house we are slowly trying to update and remodel. One of my major issues is that every Sunday he likes to go to flea markets, where he spends at least $100 for "art," which I might describe as junk. It's all over the house we are trying to fix. How do I get him to stop wasting money on this?

**UP TO MY ELBOWS IN ILLINOIS**

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
*UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE*



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR UP: There are flea markets, and then there are estate sales. They are not the same thing. Some real treasures can be found at estate sales because the sellers (often the next generation) do not realize the value of what they are getting rid of. It might be worth your while to ask your husband if the two of you can go to a few estate sales together, and buy only items you both can agree on. It's worth a try.**

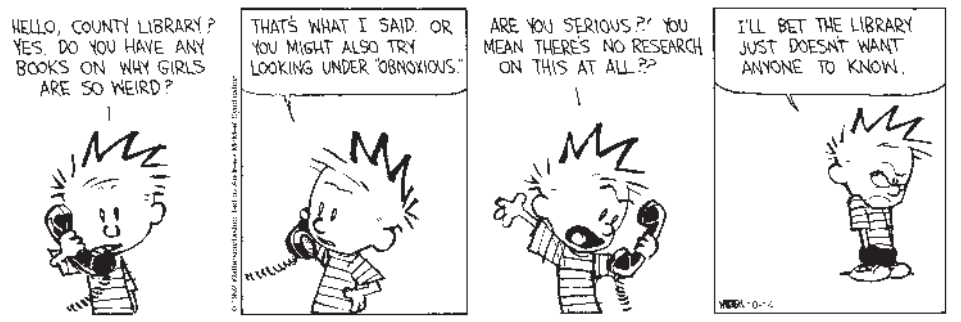
■■■■

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

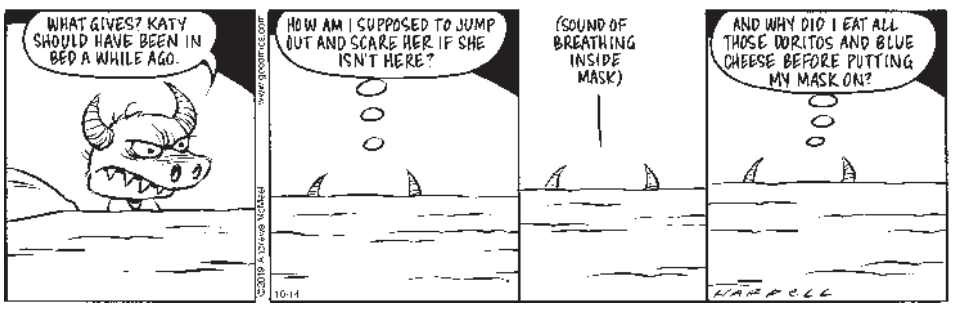

HELLO, COUNTY LIBRARY? YES. DO YOU HAVE ANY BOOKS ON WHY GIRLS ARE SO WEIRD?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID. OR YOU MIGHT ALSO TRY LOOKING UNDER "OBNOXIOUS."
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! YOU MEAN THERE'S NO RESEARCH ON THIS AT ALL?!
I'LL BET THE LIBRARY JUST DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

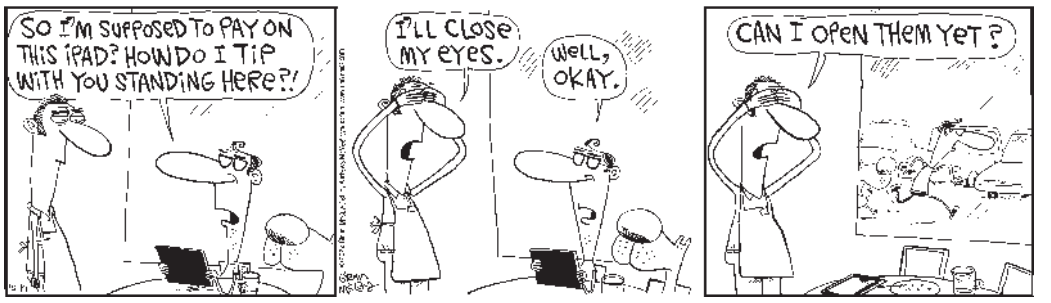
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT GIVES? KATY SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN BED A WHILE AGO.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO JUMP OUT AND SCARE HER IF SHE ISN'T HERE?
(SOUND OF BREATHING INSIDE MASK)
AND WHY DID I EAT ALL THOSE DORITOS AND BLUE CHEESE BEFORE PUTTING MY MASK ON?

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy




## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 Embrace
4 Vinyl records
7 Winning
12 Discoverer's call
13 Epoch
14 — and dined
15 Feedbag bit
16 1999 Wimbledon champion Lindsay
18 Place
19 Acknowledges
20 Cabbage salad
22 Use henna
23 Cauterize
27 Lawyers' gp.
29 Bulletin
31 Alpha's opposite
34 Jeopardizes
35 Bring in from overseas
37 Bio stat
38 Low-fat
39 Dhabi preceder
41 Warble
45 Goads
47 Mafia boss
48 Bad loser
52 Carnival city
53 Levels
54 Irish actor Stephen
55 Doctrine
56 Gem weight
57 Wd. from Roget
58 Observe

**DOWN**
1 Some earrings
2 Mover's rental
3 "Something's — Give"
4 Spartan queen
5 Soviet newspaper
6 Cabbage choice
7 Botanical bristles
8 Trendy
9 Rock's Brian
10 — Lingus
11 Banned pesticide
17 Ornamental jug
21 Conestoga, for one
23 Covert agents
24 Dawn goddess
25 Deluge refuge
26 ACLU issues
28 Tavern
30 Work unit
31 Sesame product
32 Bovary, e.g. (Abbr.)
33 Ecol. watchdog
36 Rain-delay cover
37 Hollywood's Hepburn
40 Crude dudes
42 "Thor" actor Elba
43 Racket
44 Garden statuette
45 Whispered "Hey!"
46 Jazz great Getz
48 Chest muscle
49 Eggs
50 Not 'neath
51 Genetic letters

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | R | F | | A | R | N | E | | D | I | E | D |
| L | C | U | | L | I | E | V | | A | D | C | A |
| F | I | L | L | M | O | R | E | | Y | C | G | I |
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| H | B | O | | T | I | C | | I | M | A | G | E |
| A | E | R | O | | N | A | M | | ? | - | O | D |
| D | R | E | A | M | | R | E | B | | B | O | N |
| | | | T | A | M | | H | A | V | A | N | A |
| A | R | A | M | A | I | C | | S | A | C | | |
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| E | C | O | L | | F | L | E | E | | R | E | P |
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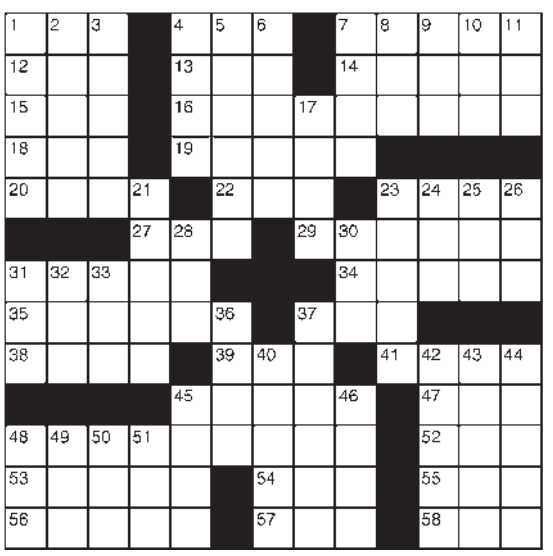
**Yesterday's answer** 10-14



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Usher, 44; Natalie Maines, 48; Lori Petty, 59; Ralph Lauren, 83.

**Happy Birthday:** Learning, traveling, experiencing and living life to the fullest is a tall order, but it's achievable if you are organized and have a purpose. Review what you've accomplished and tie up loose ends quickly so you concentrate on what's important to you. Make changes to ensure you can take advantage of the opportunities heading your way. Your numbers are 4, 7, 18, 21, 23, 37, 44.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Take a moment to catch up with a friend or relative. What you discover will help you decide what you want to do next. Time spent with someone you love will bring you closer together. Short trips will be informative. Embrace life. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Take care of business. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's jurisdiction. Being secretive regarding the changes you want to make until you have everything in place will deter others from interfering with your plans. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Your resourceful nature will help you outmaneuver anyone who gets in your way. Speak up, be proactive, be entertaining and gain insight into trends. Adjust your skills to meet the demand. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Problems will mount if you overreact, take on too much or spend money you can't spare. Concentrate on something positive and beneficial to you. Maintaining a healthy diet and scheduling regular physical activities will help you avoid poor health. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Spend time with the right people and you'll gain insight into something that interests you. A partnership can make life easier if you are both heading in the same direction. A day trip or discussions with a friend or relative will be eye-opening. ✪✪✪✪s

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your eye on what's happening around you. Someone will be elusive or withhold information. Go directly to the source if you want the facts. You are overdue for a change, but it won't happen unless you make the first move. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Spend time with people you find mentally stimulating or who share your interests and you'll discover new ways to use your skills. A trendy new look will make you feel good and attract attention. Love and romance are in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Find ways to lower your overhead. An innovative outlook will help you find a way to live smarter. Personal improvement is favored, but be secretive regarding your plans. When you are happy with the results, you can share your achievements. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let an outsider lead you astray. Make decisions based on your needs and follow through until you are happy with the results. Lend a helping hand to an expert or senior member of your family and you'll gain an unexpected bonus. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put everything in its place before you incorporate change or new beginnings in your everyday routine. Understanding and appreciating what you already have will help you make better decisions. Check out investments, but don't get involved in something you cannot afford. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider changes that will make your life easier. You'll have the freedom to use your skills to build a solid base for your plans. Self-improvement will lead to compliments, and romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Shake off differences you have with a friend, relative or peer, then go about your business. Making plans to surprise someone will bring you closer together and encourage you to find ways to promote emotional, mental and financial sharing. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are enthusiastic, curious and innovative. You are systematic and persistent.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 4 | 5 |
| | | 7 | 4 | | 9 | | 2 | 6 |
| | 9 | | | 5 | | | | |
| | 4 | | 1 | | | | 9 | |
| | | 8 | | | | 3 | | |
| | 3 | | | | 7 | | 8 | |
| | | | | 7 | | | 1 | |
| 3 | 7 | | 9 | | 8 | 5 | | |
| 1 | 2 | | | | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesturday Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 |

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

**ATV ADVENTURES** **Solution: 10 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | I | S | G | N | I | D | A | O | L | S | E | M | A | G |
| F | R | G | A | S | E | A | T | I | R | E | S | E | N | N |
| I | A | A | N | F | B | R | A | K | E | S | D | I | A | I |
| H | F | T | N | I | E | R | R | E | V | I | R | D | D | G |
| S | A | R | P | S | T | T | E | M | L | E | H | T | N | N |
| N | S | I | E | A | M | I | Y | G | E | A | U | E | A | E |
| W | S | D | R | S | R | I | O | T | L | R | R | V | B | L |
| O | U | T | L | O | O | K | S | N | N | F | E | M | W | L |
| D | P | O | A | H | U | L | S | S | S | H | U | R | I | A |
| S | P | E | T | N | I | G | L | H | I | D | D | E | N | H |
| E | R | E | R | S | D | L | H | C | D | O | R | D | C | C |
| V | I | P | R | A | I | I | L | Y | E | R | N | I | H | H |
| O | C | A | M | R | T | E | N | S | R | A | B | R | A | O |
| L | E | S | H | U | T | O | I | G | U | I | D | E | D | K |
| G | S | T | O | O | B | N | R | D | E | T | I | C | X | E |

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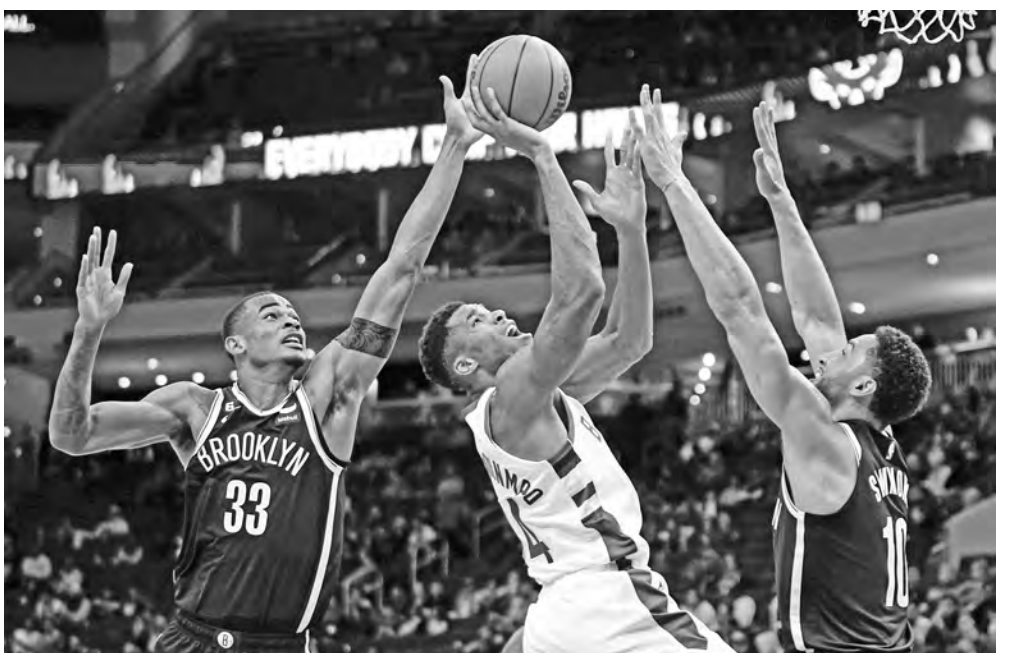
Bandana, Bars, Boots, Brakes, Bump, Challenging, Choke, Desert, Dirt, Downshift, Driver, Excited, Games, Gears, Glide, Gloves, Guided, Helmet, Hidden, Hills, Ignition, Loading, Muddy, Nerf, Operator, Outlooks, Parks, Price, Rider, Rough, Safari, Safety, Seat, Shut, Side, Slope, Standing, Steering, Thrills, Tires, Trail, Transmission, Turns, Vehicle, Winch

**Yesterday's Answer: Goddess**

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

# Irving, Durant lead Nets past winless Bucks 107-97



AP

Brooklyn Nets' Nic Claxton (33) blocks a shot attempt by Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022, in Milwaukee.

**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 23 points, Kevin Durant had 19 points and eight assists and the Brooklyn Nets won their first game of the preseason, beating the Milwaukee Bucks 107-97 Wednesday night.

Nick Claxton had 16 points and nine rebounds for Brooklyn, which snapped a two-game skid. Ben Simmons finished with seven points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led winless Milwaukee with 24 points and 14 rebounds in 32 minutes. Jrue Holiday finished with 20 points and Jevon Carter, starting alongside Holiday at guard, added 15 points on 6-for-12 shooting. The Bucks fell to 0-5 in the preseason.

Nets coach Steve Nash said before the game that he wanted his key players—Irving, Durant and Simmons—to play some extra minutes together as players began ramping up for the start of the regular season next week. Irving played 33 minutes, while Durant played 31. Simmons, who also had a pair of steals, logged 28 minutes.

The game matched Eastern Conference teams entering the season with plenty of optimism. Milwaukee is a year removed from its championship. For Brooklyn, a lot of promise last season was hindered by injuries and Irving's inability to play at home because of COVID-19 vaccination issues.

## HEAT 120, PELICANS 103

Bam Adebayo scored 25 points, Tyler Herro finished with 23 and host Miami handed New Orleans its first loss in four preseason games as Pelicans star Zion Williamson (11 points) played only 11 minutes before leaving the game after rolling his left ankle.

Jimmy Butler had 12 points and six assists in 25 minutes for the Heat. Max Strus finished with 11 points.

Willy Hernangomez, filling in at center for the resting Jonas Valanciunas, scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead New Orleans. Trey Murphy III and Naji Marshall finished with 15 points apiece.

Williamson—who didn't play at all last season because of problems with his right foot—got hurt on a play where he grabbed a rebound, brought the ball downcourt, split multiple Heat defenders and got to the rim. His left ankle appeared to buckle as he planted, without making contact with any other player. He said after the game he was fine, and was assured that he was only going to experience soreness.

CJ McCollum played 18 minutes and was 1 of 7 from the field, finishing with three points.

## CAVALIERS 105, HAWKS 99

Donovan Mitchell had 24 points and eight rebounds and Darius Garland added 23 points, 12 assists and three steals as the backcourt duo led host Cleveland to a victory over Atlanta.

Cedi Osman and Isaac Okoro finished with 16 points each, and Mamadi Diakite had 11 rebounds and 13 points, making 5 of 7 shots. Jarrett Allen had five blocks.

Dejounte Murray led the Hawks with 17 points, and John Collins had 15 points and seven rebounds. Trae Young scored 14 points, but was 3 of 17 from the field, including making one of his six 3-point attempts.

## 76ers 99, HORNETS 94

Joel Embiid had 19 points and six rebounds and James Harden added 17 points and five assists as Philadelphia beat visiting Charlotte and remained undefeated in four preseason games.

Mortrezl Harrell finished with 14 points and six rebounds.

Gordon Hayward led the Hornets with 16 points, converting 6 of 10 shots, including two of three 3-point attempts. Terry Rozier had 12 points and James Bouknight finished with 11.

The game was a demonstration of the Embiid-Harden offensive key for the Sixers. Philadelphia built its lead with the duo's scoring. However, it was a struggle shooting, with Philadelphia making 39% for the game.

LaMelo Ball sat out after suffering a left ankle sprain earlier this week. He is expected to be out a week or two, including the start of the regular season.

## PACERS 109, KNICKS 100

Rookie Bennedict Mathurin, the sixth pick in last summer's draft, scored 27 points as Indiana handed visiting New York its first loss in three preseason games.

Andrew Nembhard, the 31st pick in the draft from Gonzaga, had 15 points for the Pacers, while Chris Duarte added 13.

RJ Barrett led the Knicks with 21 points, and Julius Randle added 13.

Isaiah Hartenstein, who signed a two-year deal with the Knicks during the offseason, grabbed 10 rebounds.

Jalen Brunson, the Knicks new hope at point guard, had 11 points on 4-for-14 shooting from 3-point range in 30 minutes.

## TIMBERWOLVES 118, LAKERS 113

In Los Angeles, Naz Reid had 22 points and 13 rebounds as Minnesota defeated Los Angeles despite the Timberwolves sitting some of their key players.

LeBron James had 25 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Lakers, and Anthony Davis added 19 points and 13 rebounds. Lonnie Walker IV scored 12 points before leaving with an ankle injury in the third quarter.

Walker, an offseason signee by the Lakers, left the game after teammate Patrick Beverley rolled into him under the Minnesota basket near the midway point of the third quarter. The team announced later that Walker suffered a left ankle sprain and would not return to the game.

D'Angelo Russell and Luka Garza finished with 15 points apiece for the Timberwolves, and Jaden McDaniels scored 11 points.

While the Lakers played with their starters, including James, Davis and Russell Westbrook, Minnesota had most of their key players sitting.

That meant not seeing offseason acquisition Rudy Gobert or Karl-Anthony Towns, along with others including Taurean Prince and P.J. Dozier.

## KINGS 105, SUNS 104

De'Aaron Fox scored 15 points, Kevin Huerter added 13 points as Sacramento held on to defeat shorthanded Phoenix.

Harrison Barnes and Terence Davis had 12 points apiece for the Kings.

Duane Johnson Jr. led the Suns with 31 points and Jock Landale recorded 17 points and eight rebounds. Bismack Biyombo had 12 points for Phoenix.

The Suns turned the game over to the reserves as many of the Phoenix rotation players took the night off, including Chris Paul, Devin Booker, Deandre Ayton, Cam Johnson and Mikal Bridges.

## NUGGETS 126, CLIPPERS 115

Denver used a balanced scoring attack with eight players reaching double figures as it defeated Los Angeles in Ontario, California.

Ish Smith led the winners with 15 points, converting 7 of 11 shots, and adding eight assists to his night. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope finished with 14, and Zeke Nnaji scored 13.

Normal Powell led the Clippers with 34 points on 11 of 14 shooting. Marcus Morris Sr. had 13 points.

Paul George played 16 minutes, scoring two points, but he had six rebounds and four assists.

Kawhi Leonard took the night off.

# Lawyer: Djokovic has good chance of getting Australian visa

**BRISBANE, Australia** (AP)—A Melbourne-based immigration lawyer says Novak Djokovic will likely be successful if he applies for a visa to enter Australia for the season-opening tennis major next year despite his high-profile deportation in January.

It could be as simple as writing to the Australian Border Force, explaining his exceptional circumstances and asking for any ban on re-entry to be waived.

The 21-time Grand Slam singles champion wasn't allowed to defend his Australian Open title this year after a tumultuous 10-day legal saga over his COVID-19 vaccination status that culminated with his visa being revoked on the eve of the tournament.

The meant he could face an exclusion period of up to three years, but Australian Border Force officials have said those can be waived in certain circumstances—and that each case would be assessed on its merits.

And Djokovic has a case. He arrived at Melbourne Airport as the world's top-ranked tennis player with a visa he'd obtained online and what he believed to be a valid medical exemption to the country's strict laws for unvaccinated travelers because it was endorsed by Tennis Australia and the government of Victoria state, which hosts the tournament.

Confusion reigned, generating global headlines. As it transpired, that medical exemption allowed him entry to the tournament, which required all players, fans and officials to be vaccinated for the coronavirus, but not necessarily to enter the country. It was rejected by the Australian Border Force.

Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke ultimately used discretionary powers to cancel Djokovic's visa on character grounds, stating he was a "talisman of a community of anti-vaccine sentiment."

Immigration lawyer Konming Tsai said that in his opinion, it would "be in Australia's best interests" to allow Djokovic entry for the 2023 tournament.

"There is no risk factor here with allowing him back in," Tsai said in a telephone interview on Thursday with The Associated Press. "He's not going to create a problem for the community. He is one of the world's best tennis players and will be able to pull in a lot of foreign visitors."

Djokovic has not officially said if he will apply for a visa for Australia, with his media group in Belgrade saying it so far has no information regarding nine-time Australian Open winner's plans regarding the Jan. 16-29 tournament.

Australia has had a change of government and changed its border rules this year and, since July 6, incoming travelers no longer have to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccinations. That removes one major barrier to entry for Djokovic.

The 35-year-old Serbian star, who has won recent tournaments in Kazakhstan and Israel, can now apply to new Immigration Minister Andrew Giles to reconsider his visa status.

In his favor, Djokovic left Australia quickly after his visa was revoked, he has not publicly criticized Australian authorities and will only be seeking a temporary visa.

The first step in the process is to make an official visa application, starting a two-stage procedure.

As the Department of Home Affairs website explains, applicants in Djokovic's circumstances must explain in writing to Australian Border Force why the exclusion period should be put aside—"you must show us that there are compassionate or compelling circumstances to put aside your re-entry ban and grant you the visa."

The ABF does not comment on individual cases as a matter of policy.

A review into Djokovic's visa saga led to Tennis Australia outsourcing visa applications by players and their entourages to a company specializing in immigration matters.

That company, Absolute Immigration, has been asked for comment on Djokovic's status but did not immediately respond.

At the 2023 Australian Open launch at Melbourne Park on Wednesday, tournament director Craig Tiley said Tennis Australia wants to welcome Djokovic back but can't give him any official support with lobbying to the Australian government.

"It is not a matter we can lobby on. It is a matter that definitely stays between the two of them," Tiley said, referring to Djokovic and the Australian government.

Tiley was heavily criticized for his role in the confusion which led to Djokovic being detained in an immigration hotel.

After meeting up with him in London last month, Tiley said he believes Djokovic holds no bitterness about the saga.

"He said that he would obviously love to come back to Australia but he knows it's going to be an ultimate decision for the federal government and he accepts that," Tiley, who is also the Tennis Australia chief executive, said. "If you notice, he is playing a lot of tennis at the end of the year in anticipation and hope there is a successful outcome with his application. But that is up to him."

# Padres pull out 5-3 victory over Dodgers, tie NLDS 1-all

**LOS ANGELES** (AP) — Not many tabbed the San Diego Padres to beat the Mets in New York in the wild-card round. Even fewer picked them against the Los Angeles Dodgers, who have dominated the Padres in recent years and were baseball's best team during the regular season.

But they're all even now.

Manny Machado homered early and added an RBI double off Clayton Kershaw, and Jurickson Profar singled home the go-ahead run as San Diego defeated the Dodgers 5-3 on Wednesday to tie their NL Division Series at one game apiece.

"We're going to compete," Machado said. "We're going to try to do everything possible to help our team win every single day. That's what we started in New York, and we're going to continue to do that until we're not."

The wild-card Padres beat the rival Dodgers for the first time in the postseason. San Diego was swept 3-0 by the Dodgers in a 2020 Division Series and lost Game 1 of this playoff Tuesday.

"It's probably as back and forth a game as you are going to see," Padres manager Bob Melvin said. "A lot of drama to it. Fun win."

Dropped from first to seventh in the batting order for matchup purposes, Profar grounded a single to right field in the sixth inning off reliever Brusdar Graterol, who took the loss. Jake Cronenworth scored for a 4-3 lead.

Cronenworth homered off Blake Treinen in the eighth to give San Diego some insurance, and Josh Hader earned his first four-out save since August 2020 with Milwaukee.

"This team all year, we've been grinding," Machado said.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and Trea Turner went deep for the NL West champion Dodgers.

After an off day Thursday, the best-of-five series resumes with Game 3 on Friday in San Diego.

"Don't take anybody lightly in the postseason," Freeman said. "They're here for a reason. They play good baseball, they played really good against the Mets, and they just came out on top today."

The teams traded one-run leads on a night when two of baseball's elite pitchers—Kershaw and Yu Darvish of the Padres—got knocked around a bit. In the middle innings, it became a battle of the bullpens for the second straight game.

Hader, who got the final out of the eighth, gave up a two-out double to Freeman off the right-center wall in the ninth. That brought up Will Smith as the potential tying run at the plate. But he flied out to right to end the game.

"Freeman hits an 0-2 pitch that's up around his chin that I don't know how he even gets to," Melvin said, "and then all of a sudden you are one pitch away from being in trouble again."

The Dodgers' only lead was a 2-1 advantage in the second. Baseball's highest-scoring team in the regular season struggled to hit in the clutch.

AP

San Diego Padres' Jake Cronenworth, right, celebrates his solo home run with Wil Myers during the eighth inning in Game 2 of the baseball team's NL Division Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022, in Los Angeles.

"There were a couple of opportunities, two innings back-to-back, that we had an opportunity situationally to push a run across to tie the game, let alone to potentially take the lead, and we couldn't do that," manager Dave Roberts said. "Defensively it just wasn't clean, either."

Machado's double in the third tied it, and Cronenworth gave the Padres a 3-2 lead with an RBI groundout.

Turner's homer in the bottom half evened it again.

Darvish, who got the win, allowed three runs and seven hits in five-plus innings and had at least one baserunner in every inning. The right-hander struck out seven and walked two.

"We're in a playoff game, and I think bottom line is if we win the game, it's all good," Darvish said through a translator. "That's what happened today. All in all, I think it was a good day for us."

Kershaw gave up three runs and six hits in five innings. The three-time Cy Young Award winner struck out six and eventually settled down to retire his final nine batters.

"I definitely made some mistakes that they made me pay for," Kershaw said, "but overall I would like to have a few pitches back, but it definitely could have been worse, for sure."

In the sixth, the Dodgers made two nifty defensive plays, but couldn't keep the Padres from taking the lead.

Trent Grisham bunted into a fielder's choice to Graterol. He charged toward the third-base line, picked up the ball barehanded and threw sidearm to Smith, who made the tag on a headfirst-sliding Wil Myers to save a run. Graterol glanced toward his dugout and spread his hands as if to say, "How about that?"

Cody Bellinger ended the inning with a twisting, over-the-shoulder catch in deep center field.

The Dodgers had a great chance to tie the game in the sixth with runners on the corners.

Muncy hit a single to deep right that chased Darvish. A stunned Muncy stopped at first base, apparently thinking the ball would be caught by Juan Soto, but it went over his head near the bullpen gate. Smith, who reached on an infield single, advanced to third with no outs.

But the Dodgers were unable to cash in. Robert Suarez came in and struck out Justin Turner, and then Gavin Lux grounded into a double play to end the inning, leaving the sell-out crowd of 53,122 stunned.

The Dodgers came up short again in the seventh.

With nervous fans on their feet chanting "Let's go, Dodgers!," they loaded the bases with two outs after an intentional walk to Freeman. But Smith flied out to center to end the threat.

## Goose on the loose

A large goose flew into the stadium and landed in shallow right-center with two outs in the eighth. It sat on the grass as Lux singled to right.

The grounds crew rushed out with a blue plastic trash bin, but the bird took off. It flew all the way to near the Dodgers' on-deck circle, where Bellinger was standing. He edged away from it as the goose landed.

As the crew approached again, the goose flew to the infield near third base. A worker rushed over and put a towel over the goose and dropped it into the bin.

"That was pretty gnarly," Machado said. "Just didn't want to hurt him. I think he was hurt when he landed so I didn't like seeing that, but I guess it was good luck for us."

## UP NEXT

LHP Blake Snell will start Game 3 for the Padres in their first postseason game in front of fans at Petco Park in 16 years.

"Honestly, I have no idea what to expect—but I know it's gonna be fun," Machado said. "San Diego's been waiting for this all year, they've been waiting for it for a long time, and we're excited to go back home on Friday 1-1."

The Dodgers are going with All-Star RHP Tony Gonsolin, who won 16 games in a career-best regular season.

# Phillies' bats go quiet as Braves even NLDS at 1 game apiece

**ATLANTA** (AP)—After swinging through a 95 mph fastball for strike three to end the eighth inning, Kyle Schwarber went back to the Philadelphia dugout in an 0-for-16 postseason slump.

He wasn't the only Phillies hitter who came up empty Wednesday.

One night after scoring seven runs on 12 hits, the Phillies and their big bats went quiet in a 3-0 loss to the Atlanta Braves that evened their best-of-five NL Division Series at a game apiece.

Schwarber, who led the National League with 46 home runs this season, struck out three times and finished 0 for 4.

"For me, you've got to be able to put the ball in play," he said. "I'm the guy at the top of the lineup. I've got to be able to get on base for these guys. I don't feel bad or anything up at the plate, so I just have to make the adjustments and go from there. Put in a good day's work and then be ready to go on Friday."

Schwarber isn't alone in his struggles. Rhys Hoskins, who bats No. 2 in the lineup behind Schwarber, is 1 for 18 in the playoffs and went 0 for 4 in Game 2. Nick Castellanos was 0 for 3 after driving in three runs with three hits in Game 1.

Braves closer Kenley Jansen retired Hoskins, J.T. Realmuto and Bryce Harper in order to end the game. Back in the playoffs for the first time since 2011, the wild-card Phillies lost for the first time in four postseason games this month.

"You want to do everything you can to get on base and set it up for the people behind you or knock guys in because they're on base," Hoskins said. "I feel like I've had pretty good at-bats so far. I feel like I'm getting pitched pretty tough, too, but that's what happens in the postseason."

After rain delayed the first pitch by nearly three hours, it took until the fourth inning for the NL East champion Braves to get a hit off Phillies starter Zack Wheeler. Ronald Acuña Jr. singled to begin the inning but didn't budge as Wheeler retired the next three batters.

The night unraveled for Wheeler and the Phillies when the pitcher hit Acuña on the inside of his right elbow with two outs in the sixth. Acuña stayed down in a crouched position in obvious pain for a couple of minutes but got up, went to first base and stayed in the game. There was a five-minute delay, but Wheeler said it had no bearing on his performance.

Dansby Swanson followed with a walk before Wheeler gave up a hard-hit grounder to Matt Olson that glanced off Hoskins' glove at first for a single that scored Acuña from second and broke a scoreless tie.

"Yeah, that's a play I've made before, I'll make again, didn't make it tonight," Hoskins said. "I just misjudged the speed with which it was hit. I thought he hit it harder, and he didn't."

Atlanta scored again without the ball leaving the infield when Austin Riley hit a dribbler up the third-base line that Wheeler fielded but not in time to make a throw to first, allowing Swanson to score from third. Travis d'Arnaud followed with a single up the middle to score Olson from second, and the Phillies trailed 3-0.

That was the end of the night for Wheeler, who gave up four hits and three runs with one walk and five strikeouts.

"Just not making my pitches," Wheeler said. "I went back-to-back sliders to Olson. I felt like I executed that. He swung over it. It was down the middle and right in his bat path. It was execution. To d'Arnaud, I left a slider up over the middle. I went from spiking them to leaving them over the middle. I take pride in that kind of stuff."

Harper led off the second with a double but was stranded at third when Braves starter Kyle Wright got Alec Bohm to ground out and Brandon Marsh to strike out. Wright issued his first free pass when Marsh walked with one out in the fifth. He got no further.

Game 3 is Friday in Philadelphia.

Schwarber said the Phillies are already looking forward to playing at home this weekend. They've been on the road for the last 14 games going back to the regular season.

"We weren't able to put any runs over, but you have to be excited," Schwarber said. "It's going to be a great atmosphere and that's going to be on our side. It's not the No. 1 scenario. We'd like to go back 2-0, but it's a pretty good place to be at still."

# DC Classic and NMBBF Championship set for November

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

Winners of the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic bodybuilding competition are seen in this collage created by Latte Built. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The yearly bodybuilding competition is back and better than ever as the 2022 Dee Clayton Classic returns, along with the Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation Championship on Saturday, Nov. 5 at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

For the Dee Clayton Classic, the categories are bodybuilding, teen bodybuilding, classic physique, men's physique, teen physique, women's physique, figure, bikini, fitness, and model fitness pageant.

This year's competition is a notch higher as the concurrent Northern Marianas Bodybuilding Federation Championship, the top two competitors will be selected from the men's bodybuilding, classic bodybuilding, and physique categories, and two each for the women's figure, bikini, and physique categories, all of whom will represent the CNMI in the 2023 Honoria Pacific Games set for November.

Prejudging for the show is at 9am and the show starts at 5pm, with the doors open at 4pm.

The ticket price for the show is $30 and the door price is $40.

Registration forms to join the competition are available at both locations of Latte Built Gym at Oleai and Kagman, and the last day to register is at the end of October.

Dee Clayton, president of both the Dee Clayton Classic and the Northern Marianas Bodybuilding and Physique Federation said that, "because this competition is going to affect representation of athletes going to the South Pacific in November next year, we're taking this seriously. We are really promoting athletes to come and participate in this event, because this event is not only for the community, but it's also going to represent the Marianas."

She added that for the athletes who will come out on top this year and represent in the Solomon Islands next year, "they have ample time to prepare and to focus on their cutting and look forward for the event."

As of now, there are 14 competitors vying for a title in either category, but the numbers will fluctuate from now until the event, depending on each competitor's outlook and readiness. Clayton said she's had "a lot of last-minute" registrants in the past. "We will see in the next week or so the final outcome on participation."

When asked if the stakes are higher this year due to the anticipation of representing the Marianas next year, she said, "We don't want to have stress over this thing. We want to have fun at the same time in training and look forward to representing the Marianas, but yes, of course, it'll be a little bit more like a notch higher because this is to determine who's going to represent."

She added that even if the top two are chosen for each category to make up the NMI bodybuilding team, the determining factors of their representation depend on whether the athletes are ready for international competition and whether they have the proper documentation to go, and "all of those criteria that they need to fulfill to in order for them to qualify."

Contact (670)-235-2265 for more information on the competition or direct message Latte Built's Instagram or Facebook page.

The 2023 Pacific Games will be held in Honoria, Solomon Islands from Nov. 19 to Dec. 2, 2023. This multi-sport event will feature 24 sports and 5,000 athletes and officials from 24 countries across the Pacific.

The sponsors for the Saipan event include Megabyte of Saipan, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Marianas Visitors Authority, Gold's Gym, Latte Built Gym, Saipan World Resort Taga Hall, Rozelle Printing, Top Notch, Power 99, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts, Foremost, Island Touch by Philip, and Coca Cola.

In last year's Dee Clayton Classic competition, Latte Built's Derek Cutting topped the overall bodybuilding competition; Stanley Iakopo won Best Abs; Jolo Berueco won the men's physique tall category; Lorenzo Sanchez won the men's classic physique category; Javin Okawa defended his men's physique overall trophy; and Jovie Tuquero won the teen men's physique.

In the women's categories, Filomenaleonisa Iakopo won the women's figure and Cielo Long won the bikini portion; in the fitness category, Vanessa Lorejo triumphed; Jamila Alegre was the lone entry in the women's physique category and won; while the fitness pageant portion was topped by Amy Alano.

## DOMINIC

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The triple master is Lefty Shiro with six, followed by Ben Mesa, Mike Tomokane with four each, Derrick Sasamoto, John Taitano, Mark Villagomez with three each, and Clint Quitugua, Joe Lizama, Paul Salalila, and Suo Matsutaro with two each.

The current pitching leader is Kuich Damian of Momma Charo with three games and 13.1 innings pitched, seven earned runs, 29 hits, a one win and two loss record, and a 3.74 earned run average. Second is Jerry Guerrero from Man Amigos with two games and 12 innings pitched, 14 earned runs, 15 hits, a two win, no loss record, and a 4.08 earned run average. Third is Eric Palacios, also from Man Amigos with seven games and 43 innings pitched, 28 earned runs, 69 hits, has a six win and one loss record, and has an earned run average of 4.56.

The men's team standings as of Oct. 9 have Man Amigos in the lead with a 9-2 record, followed by Tokahao at 9-3, Sufa's 8-4, Hagu La'mun's 7-5, Peleliu's 6-5, Ngaraard Redmen's 6-5, Asahi's 6-6, Momma Charo's 5-7, Aimeliik's 2-0, and Salty Boys, 0-12 record.

## MARIANAS

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Holdings and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for sponsoring the Marianas Village Cup and giving us the opportunity to resume 5-on-5 basketball games for our community, especially for our youth. The NMIBF would also like to thank our member clubs for assembling teams for this competition," Lee said.

For more information about the Marianas Village Cup, call Pagarao at 285-1138. ***(PR)***

## INAUGURAL

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competition is the best that Guam has against our best. No ratings for the players."

The tournament will be played in a League Play format, in which there will be a women's doubles, men's doubles, and two games of mixed doubles per match. Each round is the best two out of three games to 11and they win by two points.

The winning island holds the Marianas Cup trophy for a year until the next tournament, which will be hosted by Guam.

When asked how the Saipan teams are preparing for the tournament, the coach and founder of PFNMI said, "We are practicing four times a week to prepare for the tournament. We should be ready to represent our island of Saipan and I have every expectation of winning the event and the trophy!"

The tournament begins at 5pm and the Saipan pickleball representative said, "I would love for anyone who can to come and watch and cheer our team to success! There will be a potluck dinner after the tournament on Saturday evening."

Two years since its birth, PFNMI has grown from five regular players to 125—with sets of them seen playing in the early hours or at night almost daily at the American Memorial Park pickleball courts. The club turned two years old last August and is the newest member of the Northern Marianas Sports Association.

Last July, the federation held its first Pickleball Tournament in which Guam players Derick Alcorn, Tomi Castillo, William Josler, Ronni Connelly, and Albert Manansala joined, along with CNMI national tennis players Colin Sinclair, Robbie Schorr, and Colin Ramsay.

Then in September, they held the "King's Court" event, which was not an actual tournament but was designed as a fun event where every player played 16 10-minute matches and the goal of each player was to reach and be on the King's Court at the end.

With over 4 million players, pickleball is arguably the fastest growing sport in the U.S. and its popularity has spread all over the world as pickleball is currently played in 57 countries—18 more countries and pickleball can qualify as an Olympic sport.

If you have any questions about the PFNMI, call or text Krum at 670-789-8201, or email @ nelsonkrum@msn.com. Let him know if you would like to be added to the Pickleball CNMI Group Chat on WhatsApp.

Irving, Durant lead Nets past winless Bucks 107-97

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# Dominic Hideo is strikeout king

LEIGH GASES

Asahi pitcher, Dominic Hideo, number 1, is currently the strikeout king with 25, in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association held on Sundays at the Dandan Softball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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Dominic Hideo from team Asahi in the men's division of the 2022 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League has a pitch that batters swing at and miss, and at the same time, when he steps in the batter's box, he rarely misses.

With his rocket arm, Hideo leads the men's division in strikeouts with a whopping 25 batters struck out in 12 games pitched, which is the most games pitched this season. Hideo has a total of 74 innings played, 65 earned runs, 171 hits against him, an even six wins and loss record, and has a 6.15 earned run average.

Second to him are three pitchers with 20 strikeouts each: Joe Celis, George David, and Tom Camacho. Leo Bobai is third with 18; John Diaz has 16; Ray Villagomez has 15; Ken Kaipat has 13; Mabel Ngirngemelas has 12; and Eric Palacios has 11.

On the offensive side, Hideo pays his dues as well as he helps his team rack up runs throughout their games. He has collected 10 home runs so far and is tied with Jeff Cruz, and is second only to Mike Techur with 11. Right behind Hideo and Cruz are Audie Maratita and Eric Palacios with nine, Pete Sablan with eight, and Jerome Delos Santos, Jude Dickenson, and Paul Salalila with seven each.

Hideo is second in runs batted in with 30 and is second to Jeff Cruz who has 31. Eric Palacios and Mike Techur both have 29, J.J Laniyo has 28, Audie Maratita and John Taitano both have 23, Ben Hocog has 21, while Paul Salalila and Jude Dickenson have 20 each.

Hideo also ties third with Clint Quitugua in runs scored with 22 each; John Terlaje leads with 27; Jeff Cruz is second with 24; Paul Salalia is fourth with 21; J.J Laniyo and Joe Lizama are tied for fifth both have 20.

The double king is John Taitano with nine, followed by Tim Wesley with eight, Jun Lizama with seven, Audie Maratita with six, Ben Hocog, Cartfield Sablan, and James Fleming, J.J Laniyo, and John Acosta, with five each,

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## Inaugural Marianas Cup Pickleball Tournament in Nov.

By LEIGH GASES
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Pickleball fans are in for a treat as the inaugural Marianas Cup Pickleball Tournament between Saipan and Guam teams is set for Saturday, Nov. 5, at the American Memorial Park courts.

The Pickleball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands members from Saipan for team one consists of Marivic Dunlop, Chelsea Henzon, Karen Klassen, and Mimi Zhang. The second Saipan team is made up of Dr. Nelson Krum who is a player and the coach, Donn Dunlop, Nicky Nichols, and Roy Pangelinan.

Their challengers from Guam's team one, most of whom are no strangers to the Saipan courts, consists of Derick Alcorn, Tomi Castillo, Albert Manansala, and Aubrey Owens. Team two players are William Josler, Miya Taylor, Jhun Pulongbarit, and Odette Taylor.

"The oldest player is 72 and the youngest 15," said Krum, who is the PFNMI president. "This

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LEIGH GASES

Donn Dunlop in white from Saipan, and Albert Manansala, left, from Guam are seen playing in the King's Court during the King's Court event last September at the American Memorial Park pickleball courts.

## Marianas Village Cup draws 18 teams

The Marianas Village Cup will kick off this Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex with 18 basketball teams spread into three divisions.

The boys U18 division will feature eight teams, while the women's open has six squads, and four will vie for the U13 title. Participating squads will carry the name of the villages and designated village team names will be determined in this Friday's meeting at 6pm at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Marianas Village Cup is run by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and sponsored by Tan Holdings, which is supporting different sports competitions in the CNMI as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. Tan Holdings started with the Northern Marianas Athletics-led relay run in April, followed by the NMI Cycling Federation's 50K Bike Race and Triathlon Association in the CNMI's Taga Kids and Sprint Triathlon in August and September. The company is also looking into supporting a volleyball tournament and canoe and swim races.

For basketball, NMIBF board member and Marianas Village Cup league coordinator Irish Pagarao hopes that this competition will bring back the inter-village level tournaments in the CNMI and encourage villages to form their own teams in the near future.

The Marianas Village Cup will kick off with the parade of teams at 3pm, while the first match of the competition is scheduled for 4pm. Tan Holdings is providing uniform to the 18 teams. Pagarao is calling on all teams to be at the venue by 2:30pm. Matches in the Marianas Village Cup will be played every Saturday and Sunday and there will be three games per playdate. Other details about the league, including competition format, will be discussed in this Friday's meeting.

Meanwhile, NMIBF president James Lee is pleased that the federation is able to host its first 5-on-5 basketball competition outside the interscholastic level. He added that the Marianas Village Cup will also help provide actual game experience to the NMI U15 girls and boys teams that are getting ready for the FIBA Oceania Championship, which will be held in Guam next month.

"We're grateful to Tan

See MARIANAS on Page 39

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo shows the uniform that participating teams will be using for the Marianas Villages Cup that will kick off this Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.